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" Salvation of India lies in Cottages."

—*MAHATMA GANDHI*

VOICE OF REASON AND REALISM

ELSEWHERE in these columns, we publish an illuminating article on the controversial issues of "Ceilings on Holdings and Joint Co-operative Farming" by Shri J. K. Misra, which, we have no doubt, will provide food for thought to our readers. The article is based on the author's practical experience and study of the twin problems of Agrarian Reform embodied in the Nagpur resolution of the Congress which has become a subject of acute controversy throughout the Country.

The two basic agrarian reforms adopted by the Congress and the Congress Government have to be considered in the light of their effect on the course of increased food and agricultural production and the prosperity of the Indian peasant. The learned author has, in the treatment of his article, brought practical experience, wealth of knwledge and factual information and above all Common-sense point of view, which, we are sure, will greatly enlighten our readers to form correct estimate of the soundness or otherwise of the Government move. We agree with the views expressed by the author in the course of his informative article and commend it to the thoughtful consideration of those interested in the problems of agrarian reform and the good of the country.

Dangerous Trend

What we perceive in this move of the Congress is a dangerous drift towards State Capitalism or Totalitarian State of the Russian or Chinese model with all its implications and dangerous consequences. It is easier to talk of revolutions in peaceful times than to face the storm of popular revolt when it once breaks out to oppose the move of the ruling authority. And a revolutionary change in the Socio-economic pattern of the community affecting age-old sentiments and interests of 80% of agrarian population is impossible to be brought about without a bloody revolution, the cost of which in men and money is too staggering to contemplate.

Wisdom and Statesmanship

The path of wisdom and statesmanship lies in taking stock of a situation and effecting such improvements as may suit the people and be acceptable to them. Development of the people whether social, economic or political is a slow process and does not admit of too hasty or revolutionary measures however well-intentioned they may be. Let our rulers, if they are in earnest, provide all possible facilities of irrigation, manures and fertilisers, approved seeds, agricultural finances, marketing etc. to make peasant farming a successful and paying business before they introduce co-operative farming in shockingly undeveloped and distressing conditions of Indian peasantry.

In the conditions, such as they obtain in this country, the move of "Joint Co-operative Farming" is both premature and unwise and, if persisted in, will end in huge wastage and social and economic upheavals in the country. Will the Congress rulers listen to the voice of reason and desist from a course of action which is fraught with grave implications?

CEILINGS ON LAND-HOLDINGS AND JOINT CO-OPERATIVE FARMING

By : J. K. MISRA

MUCH water has flowed down the Ganges when our beloved Prime Minister unfurled the banner on Ceilings and Co-operative farming at the All-India Congress Session at Nagpur. A lot of controversy has since raged in the press and the public, resulting in Prof. Ranga's parting with at the Doraha Conference of land-owners and peasants. The bold policy enunciated at Abhyankarnagar has drawn quite important personalities, ranging from veteran Congressite, Sri Raj Gopala Chariar down to the advocate of mixed economy, Mr. Minu Masani and a host of others, in a bitter controversy.

The resolution is said to have made history-this being considered as the single most revolutionary step forward in the annals of the agrarian reforms in this country. Let us now examine in pith and substance this mighty claim of the ruling party.

The first and the most important point in support of the move is the august argument of the Socialistic Pattern of Society, the Congress envisages to usher in. Those at the helm of the affairs claim, there must be a curb and the limit on the acquisitive instincts of individuals. This being so, the ceilings must fall first on land-holdings, the number of the so expropriated landowners not exceeding a lakh of persons, not a big number taking the vast multitudes of our people into consideration.

Philosophy Illogical and Partisan in Spirit

On the face of it, the philosophy of ceilings and redistribution seems quite laudable, indeed ! for no one should be allowed to wallow in luxury, when our teeming millions pull on somehow under grinding poverty. So far so good.

But, then why not extend this wholesome doctrine to other spheres of our national economy and social rungs ? Why not let us have ceilings on all incomes—agricultural, industrial, business, and all others—for socialism postulates an order wherein equality, so covetously enshrined in our Constitution, enures for all, and accepted canons of equality and justice transcend all spheres of national life. Against the all-round extension of this principle of simultaneous application, the false bogey of numbers raised by the protagonists of Social Justice, is a myth. It smacks of the Pseudo-socialism, which the Congress slogan of socialistic—not Socialist—pattern implies.

If numbers be any guide—though, based on the principles of Equity and Justice, it should never be—the axe should fall first on the handful of our affluent, multi-billionaire-industrialists, and the few-and-far-between business magnates, whose numbers can just be counted on the tips of the fingers. The big guns in the hierarchy of our demi-gods, governors, ministers, and fat-salaried administrators among others, too, should form no exception under the socialistic impulse of our national behaviour. If the adumbra enunciated at the Nagpur Session fails to be all-pervasive, it is partisan in spirit, and may go down in the annals of the nation as a hollow, misleading stunt, which in the garb of welfare of the vast masses of our people aimed at grabing their morsels, and fostering class-conflict, with an end in view to perpetuate the subtle interests of the vested few, having skeletons in their own cup-boards to escape the eye of screening.

Further, there seems to be nothing more sinister than the arid argument that

demarcates agricultural incomes from others on the untenable ground that the ceilings on incomes in other spheres would hamper production. On a fair examination, the rationale does not stand the test of reason, for with equal vigour of force—if not more—the very argument applies in the case of agriculture, too, which is the single biggest industry of this country.

Socio-political Problems

The ill-conceived and recklessly administered sermons on agrarian reforms may do incalculable harm to the nation by raising a host of Socio-political problems, undreamt of by the policy-makers so far. It may result in raising an army of landless proletariat, which so far acted as the bulwarks in the Socio-economic life of the rural masses.

It is no secret that this middle-class landed aristocracy constitutes the nucleus of Politico-socio-economic pattern of our people in the villages even today. It is this stratum of our society, that provided the nation with leaders of thought and action, and the philosophers of varied vision. The firmament in the galaxy of the builders of our nation is studded with the rare gems drawn from this well-to-do farmers' class, which stands threatened with annihilation at present.

To cite only a few, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Sarvapali Dr. Radha Krishnan, Pandit Pant—amongst a host of their contemporaries—of course, barring the solitary exception of Pandit Nehru, have all been drawn from the rank-and-file of this peasants' class. The proposed ceilings at quite low limits—as they are likely to be—will result in creating a void in the intellectual, political, economic and social life in the countryside.

I'm afraid, to expect a rupee-a-day bread-winner or a famishing family of a small land-holder to fill up this vacuum, is nothing short of wishful thinking. A reasonable measure of economic security, freedom from want and enough leisure are concomitant to produce a selfless class of devoted social workers. The hen that lay golden eggs, having been sacrificed at the altar of opportunism, the sceptre of social life, and economic and political power will pass on to the unscrupulous servants of the State or the money-bags of the boroughs and cities with little knowledge and interest in our rural problems.

The proposed reforms may, thus, conveniently run as the precursor to usher us into an era of democratic dictatorship, reducing three-fourths of our brethren into a state of serfdom and servitude, with no better standard than that of the dumb, driven cattle.

Exodus to Cities

The men of the intelligentsia-class and moderate means, swelling the ranks of unemployed, out on a hunt for a job to fill their stomachs—the jobs quite unpalatable, and yet scarce-will result in unfathomed exodus to cities. Further, the low ceilings placed at 12½ acres for future acquisitions in U. P., and still less proposed elsewhere—will leave no fascination to the educated youngsters drawn from the rural areas to stick on to the village, which is so vital for any programme of rural re-construction worth name and substance.

The already frustrated co-parceners in the Joint-Hindu-Families-the institution already strained to almost breaking-point by the rigour of the laws, all working against it—may further be deprived of their legitimate share in their parents' lands by being considered as one unit of family only with their parents —this is what is actually happening in the matter of assessment under Large Land Holdings Tax in Uttar Pradesh —may legitimately take the proposed reforms as the herald of an era of orgy

of loot and rule of tyranny unprecedented in the annals of history. The forces, thus unleashed in its trail may bring about national disruption, social chaos, political upheaval and economic breakdown.

Conclusions and Suggestions

If Socialism stands for levelling up of the inequalities of incomes, the case of ceilings on land can stand no exception to it. But, in all fairness to our farmers, the maximum area permissible for a unit of family should be adequate enough to assure a net minimum income—not gross income—of five hundred rupees a month, for this is not a big sum, taking an overall picture of the things as obtaining. On a considered view, fifty acres of land may be considered a fair measure for ceilings on land for Uttar Pradesh and other similarly placed States. The wider interests of justice demand that the children of our agriculturists like their compeers' elsewhere should be provided with all reasonable amenities, which can be available—even the barest among them, like education, sanitation and housing, etc.—only at comparatively higher rates than those in the urban areas.

Further, the anomalies of law should be thoroughly screened, so as to avoid the bitterness they generate by their application, bringing the whole set of legislation, good, bad, and otherwise, into wholesale condemnation. The discrimination in the matter of ceilings on existing holdings and future acquisitions should be scrapped to ensure a reasonable and uniform pattern of maximum land-holdings.

The land in excess of the proposed ceilings—whatever they be–must, before it is made over for re-distribution among landless labour, be allowed to be claimed and retained by the major coparceners in a family, no matter whatever relationship–father and son, or brothers–the coparcener bears to the head of the family, the Karta. This will avoid unnecessary litigation and heart-burning, which in the absence of these safe-guards are bound to develop.

It should also form the bounden duty of the shrewd and scrupulous legislators that the law enacted is carried out rather in its spirit than in the exploitation of its letters. There is at present a general tendency discernible from the behaviour of the State–officials to interpret the letter of the revenue laws and apply them in all their rigour against the interests of the cultivators.

With a view to ensure against such anomalous positions consequential on the land–reforms being enforced, it is suggested that the correction of entries in the Patwari Papers–wrong entries abounding in abundance even at the present juncture–must precede enforcement of ceilings, and a clear definition of the term 'Family' be specifically incorporated to avoid any ambiguities in practical operation. This may act as a check on inequitous dealings at the hands of our bureaucratic administration, so well–known for its nepotism, red–tapism, jobbery and corruption.

Joint Co-operative Farming

Probably, no greater confusion has in recent times prevailed in the minds of so far unwary public than that of the mis-givings created by the Nagpur Resolution on Joint–Co-operative Farming. The theoretical academician, with little practical insight, acclaims aloud from the ivory tower of his imagination: 'Here is the panacea in co-operative farming to cure all the chronic ailments associated with our agriculture.' The Utopian enthusiast in one breath blows the trumpet of optimism, saying 'Food-production, through joint-co-operative farming, would double up in next seven years. That will mean enough of food-

grains, not only for our rising population, but for exports even.

Concept is fallacious

The protagonists in their wild chase for the goose probably forget the key-note of the success of the Co-operative Movement. The very concept is reared on the infallible spirit of co-operation, which pre-supposes a certain measure of sacrifices on the part of the members. Unfortunately, fundamental lack of this spirit has been the greatest stumbling block in the path of progress of the co-operatives. It is for this lack of response that the co-operators all over could not forge ahead with any marked degree of success. The motivation-force, so portentous in individual enterprise, ceases to have that efficacy when applied on co-operative lines. Naturally enough, it is against the instincts of human nature, and established facts of everyday experience to expect one to put up that measure of interest, initiative and efficiency, honesty and integrity he is likely to put on his own, on the joint-ventures also. And here lies the crux of the problem. The author during the course of his active participation in agriculture and agro-economic enquiries and surveys for about past fifteen years arrived at certain irresistible conclusions, stated here-under :—

1. That the highest yield per acre, both in commercial crops, and food-grains, nothing to speak of vegetable-gardening which needs individual attention, has been recorded at small farms held by seasoned farmers.

2. That the farms run on joint-family basis were amongst the most mis-managed units. When the very farms were split up, and managed individually, they showed marvellous results in the matter of output, and the general improvements effected on the farm. Of course, the author is aware of rare solitary instances, where joint-family enterprises among the same co-parceners were a success. But such cases are very very rare. Even in these rare cases, the success of the venture was all a one-man show. With either the death of the Karta, or other disruptions in the family, the lack of interest developed, and the production in general declined to infinitesimal.

3. The land-holdings beyond 100 acres disclosed mostly a state of inefficient working, resulting in monetary loss to the farm-holders, and loss of physical out-put to the nation as a whole.

It is, thus, obvious that the co-operative farming postulating pooling together of several hundred acres of land in a large-sized compact unit is bound to founder on the mighty rock of mal-administration, a natural consequence arising from lack of initiative and enterprise, austerity and integrity. The organised opposition to the very concept of pooling land together—a move is already afoot in Punjab and elsewhere—may also result in disastrous consequences of colossal magnitude by damping the interest of the co-operators even in spheres where some good work may be possible.

If experience be any guide, Indian agriculture is more a way of life than a mere avocation to make the two ends meet. The attachment to one's land is just proverbial. The deep sense of individual ownership has kept enamoured the highest intellectual and the ignorant cultivators alike from times immemorial. Be he a small land-holder or a big manipulator, they have all treated land something very sacred, something akin to mother-Dhartiman as they prefer to call it. On emotional grounds alone, it would be most unwise to go in haste for the implementation of the move without taking the bulk of the tenantry into confidence.

Farmers of different composition and texture—big and small alike—are likely

to resist tooth and nail the move that may be forced down their unwilling throats even through the back-door methods. The amateurish experiment of Joint-Co-operative Farming through coercion or baits may prove a hazardous game for the party in power. For one thing atleast, the revolution, the Nagpur resolution contemplates to usher in the annals of agrarian reforms, may come true—not as postulated by the sponsors—but the other way round. The Nagpur Session has already set new balls rolling in the minds of our peasants by creating all sorts of misgivings. Even the psychological damage caused hereby may be enormous. They are agog to resist any move that may threaten to snatch away from them their freedom to go in their own way.

The Nagpur Session has put the Congress Organization between the deep sea and the devil, for if it goes ahead with the pooling together of land, and with a view to make the programme a success force is applied, it may mean the very negation of democracy. It may further involve violence, which civilized nations abhore. On the other hand, if Joint-co-operative farming is left to the sweet-will and mere discretion of the individual peasants, the tall talk of Co-operative farming will topple down as a fake dream, no body paying any heed to it. No amount of persuasion may bring in the desired targets near accomplishment.

The past experience of last fifty years' progress of co-operatives bears ample testimony to this fact. The people are not prepared for the joint-co-operative farming. The author during his recent tour of the four big States of the Indian Union contacted people of various shades of opinion, all of whom exhibited their acute aversion at the idea of pooling of land together. It is rather the conviction of the author that no amount of persuasion short of compulsion can bring the landholders together to form the co-operatives on any appreciable scale. Co-operative Farming and Land-Reforms may, therefore, be an ideal policy for any State to follow, but pursuing the mirage of Utopia by pooling lands together at this crucial juncture is neither desirable nor practicable.

Move Practically Unwise

Empirical studies into our agricultural practices have established beyond all doubt that there is a positive aversion in our cultivators to work in a common pool, wherein the industrious and the sluggards share the fruit alike. This has led to—even in the families of near kith-and-kin, as father and his sons—the breaking up of holdings for separate cultivation as a more remunerative device of production, as the oft-quoted adage among them goes: "Sauta buri hai choon ki aur sajhey ka kama". Expert opinion and practical experience should not, therefore, be cast to winds at the altar of whims and ideological emotionalism.

Bad Laws Scuttle the Very Co-operative Spirit

There are laws—Revenue Laws and Large Land Holdings Tax Act in Uttar Pradesh, and similar enactments elsewhere—whose impact has been to scuttle from under-neath the very spirit of co-operation. They have led to the dis-integeration of the Joint Hindu Family System, which represented co-operative institutions in miniature. The legal disadvantages flowing from living and working together have driven people to break from their common moorings. Joint-holdings, fore-runner of joint-co-operative farming, have been taxed at squeezing rates, leading to the dis-integration of the institution beyond repair. So, the sponsors of the Joint-Co-operative Farming now, sitting in the cosy chamber

of their fanciful imagination, want to raise the colossus of Joint-Co-operative Farms from the ashes of the almost extinct Joint-Family Organization, in whose stultification as a soul-less corpus, the land-reformers of today were responsible in no smaller measure. Is it not a paradox to have the Co-operative Laws, and the Laws generating anti-co-operative forces, co-existing together ?

Joint Co-operative Farming places cart before horse

I dare not challenge a man of Prime Minister's stature. But with due apologies and my sincerest regards for this one of the greatest man of the world, if I am just permitted, I may only submit that 'Since 90 percent of our agricultural holdings in India were very small, there was no way other than co-operative farming to lift the millions of peasants out of the rut of poverty........I will have a million revolutions in this country rather than have millions of our peasantry living on the verge of starvation,' fails to have the real grasp of the problem.

One wonders as to how the Co-operative farming will lift them from the rut of poverty without reducing the pressure of population from land. Co-operative farming nowhere postulates this. The real trouble, as a matter of fact, is not with the system of cultivation, but it is the inadequacy of land per head and its scatteredness, and the lack of necessary amenities, like those of irrigation, fertilizers and marketing at economic cost, which have kept peasants baffled so long. Joint-Co-operative farming is no answer for the mounting cost of production per unit, and the constantly deteriorating fertility of our lands.

This is a common phenomenon arising from large-scale mechanization of agriculture, the necessary corollary of co-operative farming. On the other hand, the projects would become un-economic proposition, where cost of production per unit is bound to bolster up without the commensurate corresponding increase in output. The chemicals-treated lands are rendered incapable to maintain their fertility, nothing to speak of regaining the exhaustion already occasioned by the constant application of the chemical fertilizers. The wave of tractorization, to avail of the only resultant benefit from large-scale cultivation—besides adding to the cost of production per unit—would deprive our lands of the humus-contents, the organic manure which alone is capable of maintaining the fertility of our already depleted lands over a long range of time.

Consequently, the yield per acre would continue falling, as has been observed on large mechanized farms all over. Yields per acre in U. S. S. R. and U. S. A.—the two countries well-known for large-scale cultivation—are comparatively lower than those in Japan, where agriculture is carried on in smaller than our own farms. Thus, it is crystal clear that instead of increasing the yield at economic cost, co-operative farming stands for increasing cost of production at declining rate output. This way, joint-co-operative farming, lost into a medley of complex practical problems posed by the adoption of joint-farming, unwantonly places the cart before the horse.

Joint Co-operatives for uneconomic production

The cost of production in co-operatives is bound to increase, and the price-level of agricultural commodities may reach a point beyond the paying capacity of our poverty-stricken people. I can do no better than illustrate this point with the aid of the achievements of the most well-equipped, largest 16000-acre State-farm in the Tarai region of Uttar Pradesh,

which judged on the arbiter of economic soundness, is running at huge losses.

On the other hand, the smallest State-owned and managed farm of about 16 acres is running as a profitable venture in the very State of Uttar Pradesh. The State can, therefore, conveniently help raise higher yields per acre by providing with necessary amenities and technical know-how rather than concentrate to pool together the small holdings of the peasants into vast tracts, which in the matter of their actual working-particularly in relation to work on the farms, and the division of the output proportionate to area-would obsess the members with almost up-hill, if not impossible tasks.

Co-operatives of the land-less labour

The formation of the co-operatives of land-less labour on the surplus lands, turned over after the imposition of ceilings, would present certain difficulties very hard to meet. As for instance, there may be thousands of villages with only a few acres of land available in each for the purposes of re-distribution, whereas the number of the landless may run into hundreds. Similarly, there may be villages with plenty of land, and no landless labour. Will the co-operatives of large numbers over insignificant areas in the former case, and of no local land-less labour over vast stretches of land available in the latter case, be formed? If they are, as they ought to be, most of the land covered by the co-operatives with large number of members over small areas of land may go just a waste. The labour getting, say, produce of a quarter of an acre of land or so to his share may have little interest or incentive to do anything tangible for the improvement of the co-operative farm.

On the other hand, the management and the working cost of these farms may prove to be white elephants for the very existence of these newly-born baby institutions. Moreover, too many cooks may further spoil the broth by their mismanagement, if all the members were allowed to partake in the management in consonance with the philosophy of co-operative movement. This may lead to the repetition of the sad chapters of history of the unhappy experiences obtaining in U. P. from 10-acre farms attached to the Junior High School sections for scientific cultivation. The latter types of farms, viz., large areas with precarious labour-population—such cases will be rarer—may pose another question as to who would own and man these farms? Men from outside? If yes, then, as to who would constitute these outsiders, and as to what would be the criterion for their selection, may be baffling problems in themselves, quite complex in their working and results.

Agriculture is sweated labour

It is also truism that the continuance of our agriculture till today at its present uneconomic level may only be explained by its treatment as a way of life, and that too, in the absence of any other alternative avenue of employment. If the long arduous hours of work of the cultivators together with their toiling family-members, men, women and children, are taken into account, the real cost of the produce per maund would just come to imaginary figures. Yet the reason why for ages, millions of our peasants toiled hard day and night without a groaning or a murmer just to live on the verge of poverty, is not far to seek. It is their deep love for the land, the treasured sense of ownership, and the exalted outlook of independent work, that have kept them tied on to their relentless efforts—of course, to a certain extent also in the absence of other lucrative avenues of employment.

(*Continued on 3rd cover page*)

COMMUNITY AND ITS CONTEXT—II

By: G. JAYACHANDRAN

THE context of communities in our national life is best assessed in its truest expression in the human life, which means that the members of a group have joined ranks to attain certain goals and that the relationships established are regarded as means to ends in themselves.

The context of the community acquires wider meaning when the community attempts to explore the many fascinating possibilities for strengthening its way of life; its own nature as a social entity extends the conceptual scheme of community action. The difficulty of defining the concept community is reflected not only in the wide variety of versions developed by sociologists but also in the puzzling practical situations which frequently confront people engaged in the field of action.

Otto G. Hoiberg conclusively states that community is essentially a personal relationship among people who live together, and where for any reason the relationships become impersonal, community ceases to exist.

"Every practical social program has its theoretical background, and theoretical writings are quite naturally phrased in language that is intelligible only to people who are professionally trained in the discipline concerned."—Otto G. Hoiberg.*

The quality of life in the community is dependent in large measure upon the degree to which its people are alert to developments on the social frontiers, and are actively involved in helping to meet the challenges posed. The future of the rural community rests with the leaders and followers who are aware that a frontier exists, who recognize that something can be done to develop it, and who firmly believe in local action as a means of forging ahead. Where this triple outlook prevails, there is ample reason for optimism.

The basic context of the community is the spirit that guides the participants. The community spirit is difficult to define, but easy to detect. Its presence or absence is detected in the real progress recorded. Perhaps it involves a recognition of self-interest goals in the attainment of a better community. In this very fact lies one of the greatest satisfaction of living in rural areas.

Reduced to basic terms, community spirit is apt to remain strongest where everyone cheerfully assumes his share of the work to be done and enjoys in the association of others. The spirit will completely disappear in toto where there is abrogation of responsibility on the part of the beneficiaries as well as the agents of operation. The agents of operation have little role in enhancing the quality of community life whereas the essential feature of community life as represented in spontaneity and recurring force of development rests on the degree of enthusiasm, adaptability and co-operation exhibited by each of the single elements on the society.

The practical utility of these co-efficients is directly measured by the achievements of the community in terms of an integrated human life. Human endeavour becomes the nuclei of communal activity, reducing human activity to its basic importance in the gradual process of building community life on an endearing basis.

* Otto G. Hoiberg, exploring the small Community (University of Nebraska Press 1955) pages 10-11.

The physical targets are not the sole indicators of progress registered by any community, but the fullness of human life it is able to achieve should be taken as the real mark of progress. The human satiation is the essential factor in contributing ever-lasting qualities and longevity to the community life. The contexual role of community is thus an "*ipso facto*" recognition of the human element centered in the daily life of community. The context is human and the goal is human satiation.

They cannot be measured by any material standard nor physical criteria. The views of community will display the progress felt by the practical wisdom of the individuals constituting the community reflective in the personal happiness of the members of community.

VILLAGE PROSPERITY THROUGH SERVICE CO-OPERATIVES

By: Dr. V. D. NAGAR

THE debates and discussions, both ideological and empirical on co-operative farming present a strange mixture of an over pessimistic fear of the conservatism of the peasant, on the one hand, and an over optimistic hope of co-operative village life, on the other. In the heat of controversies and emotionally surcharged atmosphere, the fundamental truth that the agriculturist is the most important man in India, as he symbolises millions of rural population which is constantly living on the verge of starvation or beyond it, is usually forgotton with the result that many knotty issues with which the problem of farming bristles recede into back-ground. The arguments for and against co-operative farming are either theoretical or general illustrated wherever needed with the conditions obtaining in foreign countries.

But we cannot bodily import any of the forms of co-operative societies followed in Denmark, Israel, China and Japan where new experiments have been made in co-operative farming to suit their different conditions. We have to evolve our own form which may suit our economic, social and political conditions and to put in Prof. D. R. Gadgil's words "an approach to the problem which in Indian conditions is both economically feasible and is likely to be accepted politically".

The road to co-operative farming in India passes through the village service co-operatives. "Our present aim", in the words of Mr. Nehru, "is village service co-operatives aiming later on at co-operative farming". The village service co-operative is nothing but Otto Schiller's "individual farming on co-operative lines" which according to him" solves the problem of finding a way of organizing small cultivators for co-operative action in farming operations without depriving them of economic independence and without affecting their individual initiative and private ownership of land".

Emphasis, therefore, should be placed on the service co-operatives which would represent (a) a higher degree of co-operation, (b) a strong economic organisation for helping the peasants, (c) an attractive force and school for the introduction of better and more productive methods of cultivation and

(d) a device for avoiding wastage of land, labour, capital, cattle, water etc. and putting an end to the common village rivalries and factions. These service co-operatives will provide the peasants with the high quality seed and artificial manures, plough their lands with improved types of ploughs or tractors, irrigate the land and provide labour during harvesting season for a very low cost, lower than that which the peasants pay at present.

Once the co-operatives gain the trust of the peasants and the peasants begin to regard the co-operatives as their own economic organisation and not something alien to them thrust upon as at present, other farms of co-operation and functions like agricultural marketing, supply of necessary provisions to the peasants etc. can be added. Not only this, peasants when assured of genral communal husbandry and essential services will sell their draught animals and primitive means of production and devote more time for social and economic development of the village. In short, the village service co-operatives will justify their existence by achieving two aims : firstly, agricultural production will increase and secondly, the habits and the peasants' traditional character based on "self-servicing" will be changed. These achievements will lay the sound foundation for co-operative farming and link the peasants gradually and painlessly to the socialist economy.

In India, there are about 5½ lakh villages, both big and small. Very small and adjacent villages having common land will have to be grouped into workable and economically strong co-operatives. The village thus will need abovt 4 lac co-operatives which as Mr. Nehru has assured " are not terrible figures to contemplate ".

Pre-requisites of Service Co-operatives

But the aforesaid claimed advantages are not possible to be achieved unless the following pre-requisites are fully met :—

(a) All the political parties should take the success of service co-operatives as the "National Issue" and should not confuse the ignorant and poor villagers by introducing party politics in the service co-operatives.

(b) The co-operatives should be economically strong organisations so that they may by their own strength influence and attract the peasants.

(c) Elastic and suitable (to the needs) laws replacing the present inelastic and obsolete system, which would appeal and convince more to the individual producers and lead them in the planned direction should be framed without any delay.

(d) The rebirth of zamindari and absentee land-lordism in the new garb i. e. a large number of Managers, Supervisors, Foreman and staff of workers doing no physical labour themselves while earning higher emoluments than other actual workers should not be allowed. This is necessary to ensure participation of the peasants in the production activities organised by the co-operatives. Supervision by highly trained specialists on the basis of modern agro-economic science and practice should be kept to the necessary level only.

(e) As the village service co-operatives by pooling of resources may reduce the number of farm labourers and increase the existing disguised labour of individual farmers, development activities such as soil conservation, levelling, bunding, layout of field channels, reclamation of land, draining of marsh lands, improvement of minor irrigation works, digging of wells, etc. should be undertaken so that the surplus labour may be engaged in productive employment for the development of agriculture.

Besides this, the scheme of agricultural expansion such as livestock production on the whole time basis can give employment to a part of the labour as well as non-labour population of agriculture.

(f) Apart from enlarging the scope for employment within agricultural sector itself, the surplus labour should be diverted to Forest Industries which at present are thrown to contractors or highest bidders. This in turn necessitates the formation of labour co-operatives in forest industries also. The formation of village service co-operatives is thus essentially linked with the elimination of middlemen from the rural area as a whole.

(g) Lastly, close contact with the rural population, more attention to the local conditions, infinite patience, energy and tact, earnestness and simplicity of personal habits together with unbounded sympathy for rural poor and particularly the unemployed persons on the part of the organisers are the key to winning the co-operation and confidence of the peasants. Any kind of haste to fulfill the official targets should be avoided. The organisers have to mix with the villagers, to sit with them, to gossip with them and to become one of them. Without such close association, the village service co-operatives can neither perform service nor achieve co-operation.

When these pre-requisites are fulfilled we can follow the steps according to the classification of Otto Schiller. After the formation of village service co-operatives i. e. individual farming on co-operative lines, the next step should be co-operative farming in new setlements and the last but not the least, co-operative farming in old villages.

This, however, does not suggest that co-overative farming in both new settlements and old villages should not be undertaken simultaneously if the vlllagers spontaneously join together and conditions are favourable. The real need is to make the service co-operatives successful. The Government will have to come forward with all assistance of men, money and materials. In fact, we have to take care of the village service co-operatives and the co-operative farming will automatically take its own care.

BASIC APPROACH TO THE THIRD FIVE-YEAR PLAN

By : Prof. C. L. KHANNA

THE first eight years of our new-born Republic may well be regarded as a preamble of planning. These years witnessed how India is leaving behind the pre-industrial epoch and taking a big leap forward into the industrial era. While the face of the world has changed by industrialization and the West is marching on to the atomic, nay Sputnik age, can India afford to lag behind ? Several countries, in the East and Middle-East, which had been groaning under the foreign domination have broken the shackles of ages and emerged as free nations with a new faith, determination and courage to advance economically, socially and politically.

China has taken long and rapid strides towards economic regeneration ; the war-devastated Japan is coming to its

own; the United Arab Republic is on its march forward; Burma, Ceylon, Indonesia and other countries are striving hard to move up and farther ; The U. S. S. R. has entered the Sputnik age and eclipsed the Western powers which once stood astride the whole world, in science and technology. Shall India still continue to ply the lonely furrow by clinging to its bullock-cart and the cow-dung age ? Shall she be content with the subsistence living standards and rest on her oars singing the "glory that was Ind.".

India stands as the bastion of democracy in the world and a symbol of the surging tide for justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. She is the bulwark of resurgent Asia. In the vortex of circumstances of the new economic age she must, obviously, keep abreast with other countries, developed or undeveloped. This challange can be ignored only at our own peril. Our Second Five-Year Plan represents only a small step in the total dynamic setting of India's economy mainly as a preparation for much bigger steps in the future plans.

Why a Bigger Plan

The Third Five-Year Plan (1961-62 to 1965-66) must have a bigger outlay for two obvious reasons :—

(i) to make up the backlog in the planned expenditure caused in the first two Plans owing to inadequacy of resources, internal as well as external ; and

(ii) to accelerate the tempo of development and to reduce the rigours of poverty, unemployment, death, disease, ignorance and illiteracy.

The ideal of planning should be, what is called "rolling planning". That is, India should make for every year three new plans :—

(a) One for the next following year ; this yearly plan should include the fiscal budget, and, equally important, the budget for the utilisation, during the next following year, of the scarce foreign exchange resources.

(b) One five-year plan ; and

(c) One perspective plan for fifteen or twenty years.

Such a form of planning should have the twin-approach of ensuring equality as between nations and within our own nation.

Assumptions of the third-plan

The formulation and implementation of our next plan postulates that India's nascent democracy remains intact. By democracy is not implied uncontrolled freedom or 'laissez faire' of the nineteenth century but a well-regulated and well-balanced social freedom which helps forge intra-national and inter-national human welfare without annihilating individuality of man. Such a democracy means subordination of self-gain to the gains of the people and creation of an egalitarian society.

The second important assumption is the establishment and maintenance of peace and security. Economic stability is likely to flounder on the rock of political insecurity, internal or external. During the Second Plan 25 percent of the tax revenue (Rs. 225 out of Rs. 900 crores) had to be canalised into defence channels in order to offset the impending dangers of the war-hysteria brewed up by the neighbouring countries. India and Pakistan were together spending as much as Rs. 400 crores per year on defence expenditure which could well be spent on raising the standard of living of the masses. Upward of 1700 million dollars have poured into Turkey from NATO allies. Not a few countries are faced today with the problem as to how to gear

a defence-oriented budget to the needs of the expanding economy of the countries. All planning, however well-intentioned and well-thought out, will be set at nought at the outbreak of a war or under the shadows of war-tensions.

Internal strifes and ever-growing fissiparous tendencies, which have caused cleavages in Indian ranks, may also seriously disturb our plans and programmes.

The third assumption is that India will not have to face any cut-throat competition from other under-developed countries each of which is on the threshold of an industrial revolution. Defeat in this marathon industrial race will mean our doomsday. Our plans should streamline this vital need of healthy competition and ensure against all the odds, such as cost and quality, that might hamper our capacity to compete with others. If some formula on the European Common Market pattern could be devised and enforced the sharp and irksome angularities of rival competition may be rounded off. Such a mutually beneficial measure anticipates the existence of an integrated economy of all under-developed countries which actually does not obtain at present.

Estimates of Outlay

The analysis of these facts indicates that the Third Plan must be bigger and bolder than its predecessors and must be so sized as to meet the needs of the huge population rising at a galloping rate of 2 percent per year. Precise data as to the required outlay in the public and private sectors are not yet available. However, estimates, known so far, reveal that the next plan may have investment targets as indicated below :

	Estimated Outlay Rs. crores.		Authority
1.	10,000*		Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis
2.	9,900		Prof. J. J. Anjaria
3.	5,500	(Public Sector)	
	3,500	(Private Sector)	
	9,000		Dr. P. S. Lokanathan
4.	6,000	(reported estimates)	planning Commission

* *N. B.* This estimate has been accepted even by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The five-figure outlay of Rs. 10,000 is proposed to be allocated as follows :

Items.	First Plan allocations.	% of Total	Second Plan Revised allocations.	% of Total	Third Plan Proposed allocations.	% of Total.
	Rs. Crores.		Rs. Crores.		Rs. Crores.	
1. Agriculture and Community Development	357	15.1	510	11.3	1200	12
2. Irrigation & Power	661	28.1	820	18.2	1700	17
3. Village & small Industries.	30	1.3	160	3.6	300	3
4. Industries & Minerals.	149	6.3	790	17.5	2000	20
5. Transport & Communications	557	23.6	1340	29.8	2800	28
6. Social Services	533	22.6	810	18.0	1800	18
7. Miscellaneous	69	3.0	70	1.6	200	2
Total......	2,356	100.0	4,500	100.0	10,000	100.0

Expanding public sector

It is really very strange that certain sections of the Indian intelligentsia, including the accredited economic experts, have misunderstood and maligned the public sector and re-started the controversy of public sector versus private sector despite eight-year long experimentation. The critics have urged that back-to-the private sector principle should govern the future Plans. It is common knowledge that the First Plan gave us Sindri, Chittaranjan, India Telephone industries, DDT factory, Cement Factory and the Integral Coach Factory. The Second Plan, similarly, gave us the three giant steel plants—the three milestones for full and complete socialism. Was this a mean achievement ? Is this something the private sector could have done ? Even if it were granted that the private sector has given a better account of itself than its counter-part, does it mean that the weak must go to the wall especially when the strength of the public sector means nearness to our much-cherished ideal of socialist society.

Beating the retreat from this goal of ours will not only mean undoing the past achievement, by no means insignificant, of the State enterprise in India but it will also precipitate the public distrust. The proposed retrograde step of the reactionaries will, virtually, amount to sounding the death-knell of planning. The judicious choice lies in planning by inducement blended with planning by direction for "there are no longer any believers in 'laisses faire', except on the lunatic fringe". The two sectors are complementary and not competitive to each other. The fear complex in the minds of the private entrepreneur is a relic of the past and must yield place to boldness born of the new circumstances in which our democracy is thriving. The public sector is an unavoidable historic necessity and must expand *parri passu* with our growing economy. India's success in this unique and mighty venture of planning by people's co-operation will be yet another lesson for the world to emulate as "Panch Shila" is in the political realm.

Resources

Planning means the purposive utilization of the available and potential resources of a country. In an underdeveloped and undeveloped economy there is no dearth of resources within the country and yet the fact remains that the Second Plan has been whittled down for want of adequate finances both internal and external. Bigger Plans in the future will inevitably encounter many more difficulties in tapping and securing the right resources. However the following broad indications show the way to meet the requirement.

I. Tap the existing sources

A. Taxes

1. By plugging the leakage in the taxes which has been estimated by prof. Kaldor between Rs. 200 and 300 crores a year.

2. The existing rates of the newly-imposed taxes, namely, wealth Tax, Expenditure Tax, Estate Duty etc. should be enhanced. The question of a tax-holiday is inconsistent with the planned economic development of India. Taxes and tears are the price of democratic planning. The tax-revenue during 1958-59 amounted to Rs. 1050 crores as against the National income of about Rs. 11,000 crores. Thus only about 9 percent of the income was appropriated by the Government through taxation. Is it too heavy a burden ?

B. Deficit Financing

3. We should not fight shy of deficit financing for if it is supported by high

production in the agricultural and industrial sectors together with the fiscal and other measures regulating consumption, movement and production etc. its impact on prices is considerably weakened. It is rather amazing that our Government has during the course of the Second Plan dreaded controls, e. g. food control and rationing, like a burnt child who dreads fire.

C. Savings

4. By intensifying small savings drives in the rural as well as urban areas quite sizeable amounts of private savings could be canalised for investment purposes. Illustratively, if one Naya Paisa were saved per capita per day, the aggregate accumulation by 400 million Indian would swell to about Rs. 7300 millions during the 5-year plan period as against Rs. 5000 million estimated for the Second Plan.

The villages provide a salubrious soil for launching intensive small saving drives because there is quite a plausible ground to presume that the consistently high agricultural prices, especially of the foodgrains, during the last three or four years have shifted fabulous incomes to the agricultural sector.

5, By the expansion of Insurance schemes in rural areas, if possible, through Community Development Blocks as has been done in Jaipur District.

D. Profit-Orientation of State Enterprise.

6. The undertakings in the public sector should now be switched on to business-like basis. They must, like the private entrepreneur, be run so as to yield profits which may be ploughed back into the industry.

II. Tapping new sources

7. According to the estimates available 70 percent of the aggregate national dividend is contributed by the ruralites but only 40 percent of their share is canalised into the State exchequer by way of taxes. The Taxation Enquiry Commission estimated that the villagers in the income-group of Rs. 1-150 per month paid only 2.2 percent of their expenditure through indirect taxation; those in the income-group of Rs. 101-150 paid only 0.5 percent and those in the income-group of Rs, 151-300 paid 2.8 percent. The mainstay of revenue in the rural areas is the land-revenue which can be augmented as follows :—

(a) The land-revenue on peasants owning more than five-acre holdings should be doubled and the number of such agriculturists is only one-fourth of the village population.

(b) A surcharge on cash crops raised over holdings above five acres should be imposed.

(c) If one-sixth of the rent received by the landlords is appropriated by the Government, an annual income of the order of Rs. 100 crores may be expected.

In case, however, the traditional sources of revenue-raising, such as, taxes, savings and internal and external borrowings are inadequate to finance the colossal planned outlay, resort may, to that extent, be taken to "pump priming" but a go-slow policy with the developmental process would be to invite disaster and ultimately death of democracy.

Higher Foreign Exchange Content

It is needless to emphasize that in the Third Plan efforts have to be made to reduce the foreign exchange component although indications are to the contrary. We have to find more and more foreign assets to maintain the present tempo of industrial development, to enlarge the public sector, to pay for the imports of

food for the growing population awakened to a new economic consciousness and for servicing of the past debts. On an average Rs. 100 crores annually will be required to repay our foreign obligations estimated at about Rs. 1350 crores. Dr. K. N. Raj of Delhi School of Economics has estimated the probable foreign needs of the Third Plan at Rs. 1,500 crores.

We have also to find finances for large-scale and heavy industries, such as, the installation of the fourth steel plant, (and expansion of the existing ones). Our steel plants are writing a new chapter in a new Mahabharat, the new story of a new India. We require Rs. 400 crores (as against Rs. 30 crores provided in the Second Plan) for oil programmes which envisage the exploration, exploitation, refining and marketing of 10 million tons of oil yearly by 1967. This may save India oil imports worth about Rs. 1,000 crores in the next plan. (India's consumption is expected to rise from 5.7 million tons of petroleum in 1958 to 8 million tons in 1963 and 12 million tons in 1967). We shall also be able to save foreign exchange by less imports of steel, in fact there may be net earning through more exports of steel.

While our needs for foreign capital are bound to multiply ever more with advances—rapid advances—in planning and while the last Fund-Bank meeting at Delhi cleared the clouds of gloom and despondency for foreign aid, the situation is not free from stakes. It may be pertinent to refer to an observation made by Mr. Eugene R. Black, President for the Internal Bank for Reconstruction & Development.

"My recent visit convinced me that Delhi is aware of the strict limits imposed on the pace of future development by the critical foreign exchange situation. We all hope that further talks among the main creditor countries, similar to those held in the Bank in August 1958 will reveal ways in which the accounts for the last two years of the Second Plan can be balanced. Even so it is already clear that the Third Plan will have to be built upon financial foundations considerably different from those of its predecessors.

" India must expect to dependmore on its own resources."

In the Third Five-Year Plan, therefore, the emphasis should be more and more on "TRADE AND NOT AID". This issue is taken up later in these pages.

Industrial Pattern

If India is unable to lift itself with its own bootstraps will the Third Plan be strangulated to death ? It is a moot question calling for a deal of introspection Shall we have to abandon the policy of rapid industrialization and of socialism ? Our top-ranking leaders have asserted *ad infinitum* that the Congress "will firmly march forward to attain this (Socialist) goal and fulfil this pledge of socialism, for any retreat from this would be a betrayal of the pledge". The fulfilment of this ideal is impossible without balanced industrialisation, which implies harmonious development of large-scale, medium and small-scale industries including cottage industries and agro-industries. Such an industrial pattern is not un-Gandhian as some critics have come to believe. Gandhian economics is a synthesis between large-scale and centralised industry run on democratic socialist lines and a great sector of decentralised production.

During the Second Plan period, our Government arbitrarily demarcated the production quota in the cotton textile industry for the mill and the handloom sector. Experience has revealed that this ideological approach based on senti-

mental Gandhites has spelt disaster to the large-scale productive enterprise and has not yielded the anticipated dividends to the cottage industries. The textile policy of the Government gave a 'hot house existence' to cottage industries. Obviously such policies need be reversed forthwith otherwise foreign exchange earning must fall with the already dwindling textile exports.

Cotton textiles are good earners of foreign exchange. But with the emergence of certain other under-developed countries, the competitive capacity of Indian textiles may be weakened. Similarly, other traditional exports, jute manufactures, tea, rubber etc. may also cease to enjoy a flourishing foreign markets. It, therefore, appears advisable that in any scheme of industrialisation top-priority should be given to industries which are export producers and export-earners. Efforts have to be made to plan agricultural production so as to have diversification of exports of primary goods. Mr. Samuel Waugh, President, United States Export-Import Bank, said recently that the bank would readily entertain proposals for aid to the private sector in setting up tractor, fertilizer machinery and manufacturing plants.

Austerity in consumption within the country must needs be resorted to in order to release more of exportable surplus. Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, said in his inaugural address at a Conference of Export Promotion Council that as the Third Plan was expected to be bigger than the current plan the people would have to undergo hardships for shortage of consumer goods like Japanes or the Chines with a view to promoting exports and earning foreign exchange.

Industries whose installed capacities have not been worked in full due to shortage of raw material and machinery can yield enough of investible and exportable surplus. The trade delegations from Germany and America have unmistakably indicated how India can find profitable markets in these countries. The two vital considerations in this connection are that the exportable goods should be standardised, their cost of production lowered so that they can compete with goods produced by other countries ; and the labour productivity raised. All these export promotion measures presume mechanisation of industries more and more. This may, no doubt, sound paradoxical in India whose population has expanded rapidly and will continue to be so. The history of the United States has demonstrated that by reducing costs, with the increased use of machines, markets for the products are rapidly expanded, products more widely distributed and standards of living raised thereby.

It is but a step to say that thousands of machines essential for the development of small-scale industries should be manufactured in India and the "propensity to import which predominates a developing country" curbed. India will, it is estimated, be in a position to produce machines worth about Rs. 350 to 400 crores during the Third Plan as against Rs. 60 crores during 1958. This will boost up the demand for steel (and hence steel plants within the country, if the drain on foreign exchange reserves must be reduced) and technical know-how.

Agricultural Development

The emphasis on building an industrial India should not be misconstrued as cold indifference to the development of agriculture. Heretofore, in the words of Prime Minister Nehru, we paid only "airy" considerations to agriculture and its allied problems, such as, land reform,

farm credit, fertilisers' production, supply and use, seed multiplication, crop rotation, co-operatives etc. The result of this lack of "urgency for food production" is reflected in the 'Re-appraisal of the Second Plan'. The achievement of production potential in 1956-57 is assessed at 1.3 million tons, in 1957-58 at 2.3 million tons, and in 1958-59 at 3 million tons. The total increase in production potential for 1956-59 is less than 50 percent of the targets of 15.5 million tons of foodgrains during the plan period.

The Third Plan must grapple with redoubled energy and enthusiasm the agricultural problem of which the food bottleneck is but one aspect. Our agriculture has not only to provide food for the hungry millions but also feed the factories with adequate raw materials. While food will help generate mass enthusiasm so essential to work the Plan the factories will add to the production of raw as well as manufactured goods. At the Hyderabad session, the Congress resolved that by the end of the Third Plan there should be a cent percent increase in the present yield per acre. This is a laudable target but the common man has no patience with such wordy resolves. He judges things by the actual results which, in the past, have, unfortunately, not been gratifying. Notwithstanding if the yield increases, the prices may be stabilized down at a level which admits of large-scale deficit financing necessary for the planned development. In the absence of adequate food supply, the inflationary pressure on the available food and other resources is sure to spurt the prices up much to the chagrin of the economically-depressed Indians. But if adequate production of agricultural produce ensures price stability, political tranquillity will follow.

Employment Potential

The question of raising the employment potential in the country becomes problematic in a free economy. If our Third Plan is to solve even partially the unemployment issue, as it must, the economy will have to "streamline" increased State enterprise. During the 3 years of the Second Plan it is estimated that only 2½ million persons as against 8 million (later revised to 6.5 million) have been placed in the non-agricultural sector of our economy. The Third Plan has, therefore, to fulfil the twin object of augmenting employment opportunities and also to absorb the backlog in emploment and also the new entrants. The Third Plan has to be so "sized as to create new jobs for 15 to 16 million people, excluding the educated unemployed".

The type of employment which cottage industries provide is out of tune with our objective to raise the living standard. Employment in the agricultural and decentralised sector of our economy has a low-income content. With the pittance of daily income of a farmer or a cottage worker the net purchasing power and, consequently, the saving capacity and the propensity to consume goods, excepting the barest subsistence, are abysmally low. Large-scale and rapid industrialization under the State management, direction and control can alone solve the problem of high employment and reasonably high wages. The revival of cottage industries should be so phased as not to conflict with and hamper the progress of large-scale industries.

Price stabilization

One of the worst features of the Second Plan has so far been the inflationary prices. The general index of wholesale prices stood at 113 in the first six months of 1958-59 as against 99 in 1955-56, the last year of the First Plan (with 1952-53 as the base year.) This has been attributed to India's economic leap forward in the Second Plan. Caution and realism

are suggested as the key-notes for the Third Plan. A bigger developmental expenditure is considered "inadvisable". This is a static and halting approach. In a dynamically moving economy we need radical outlook.

If the huge planned expenditure without any strategic and physical controls necessary to hold the price-line pressed against the scarce goods during the Second Plan period, is it an argument for the curtailment of expenditure ? To our mind it appears that the logical and scientific approach is to superimpose consumption control rather than arrest the mounting investments and thus reduce opportunities for increased production, employment and higher consumption standards in the future. The whittling down of the investment targets is not a remedy to keep the wolf at bay. It is rather the negation of planning. Poverty writ large in India will perpetuate, mass discontent will increase and our democracy will become a farce, if not extinct. Higher investments together with disinflationary measures effectively enforced throughout the country suggest the way out. But all these changes and improvements are time-consuming. There is no magic wand to bring about quick results to the satisfaction of the public in general.

Mental Revolution

The success of a colossal Plan, as is envisaged, demands emotional integration. A 'mental revolution' implying a feeling of the wholeness of India is the *sine qua non* for the realization of the planned targets in the next plan. Our past experience is that the inflationary trends in prices which resulted in inegalitarian shifts have antagonised many section of the society. The Third Plan has, thus, to make up much leeway in bridging the yawning gap between the public sympathy and apathy, the public sector and the private sector, the privileged and the under-priviledged or unpriviledged classes.

If the wage-price disparity accentuated with the increased tempo in the developmental expenditure unaccompanied by fiscal, financial and other measures to keep down the prices, the labour unrest (leave aside the mass discontent seething in the country) may torpedo the productive activities and bring about a landslide and ruin. We have at our disposal vast resources compared with what we had during the pre-Independence years. We can harness them into the service of mankind under democratic planning only if the people are awakened to a new sense of responsibility and consciousness for self-development and national prosperity. The present-day democracy implies a well-regulated welfare State motivated with the ruling passion to rid the country of its social ills, economic serfdom and political insecurity.

Thus alone can a dynamic society, based on voluntary co-operation, be created comparable to what the totalitarian powers have been able to create by dint of their monolithic party organization and relentless use of the coercive power. A new dimensional thinking of socialism under democracy is a pre-condition. The capitalistic and acquisitive society, howsoever good, has outlived its utility. With the Third Five-Year Plan we must put an end to it and begin a new chapter of the economy of India—richer, happier and stronger than ever before. Tears, toils and patience is the price of planning in our under-developed India. We must pay that price to reap a bumper harvest of wealth and welfare.

THE CONSERVATION OF RAIN WATER IN INDIA

By : G. B. SIRDESHPANDE

I HAD been to a village last summer. The village was across a big stream. At that time the stream had become dry. People had garden wells on the banks of the stream. At that time, every peasant was uneasy as his well had become dry and his valuable sugarcane crop was deteriorating for want of timely watering. Everybody was sighing.

After a fortnight the same stream with the setting of rains flooded ; and it held the traffic for two days by becoming impassable.

This spectacle set me a thinking. Cannot the same swelled water be conserved near the village to supply water through percolation to the wells of the village as well as to garden wells in summer ? Will not a Bandhara across the stream confer that blessing to the village ? "Yes", Certainly expressed every peasant. But why not do it ? "It is beyond our capacity" expressed the villagers. Why not approach the Government ?

Peasants told me : "They have been getting water from a canal running through their fields by putting up a temporary earthen bund every year on the same stream at the head. They put up earthen bunds at the beginning of rainy season, it would break by the varying pressure from time to time when it would be raining and flooding. If the Government were to put up a raised pucca bandhara at that place, there would be more irrigation. The water can be carried to fields situated at higher level. Why not approach the Government for constructing such a pucca bandhara as you need ? asked I.

We put this necessity before M. L. A.'s coming to our village at the time of general elections. They make a show of doing it immediately. Sometimes a show of survey is made and then things remain undone. This has been going on for the last one decade.

On the contrary, agricultural Officers come and insist on our giving consent for mass bunding which is not immediately paying. We cannot understand Government mentality in giving up immediately useful things and hankering after distant things !

Why is Government behaving in such queer way ? This village is not one solitary instance. There are thousands of such instances in scarcity areas. If Bandharas are put up near a village wherever there are streams running and carrying off immense quantity of rain water every year to join the rivers, how much deterioration in crops will be insured ? Sufficiency of well water in summer will help to grow summer crops in innumerable garden lands in scarcity areas.

This is the most urgent thing required in all scarcity areas (light rain fall areas) —conservation of rain flooded stream water by putting up pucca bandharas. They are miniature river valley schemes. Will such petty things — costing thousands—which are really life-giving appeal to unimaginative administrative machinery and replenish dry wells and empty larders in our country ? Why not Community Project areas take up building such Bandharas across big streams running in their area ?

IRRIGATION IN INDIA

By : **VIJAY KUMAR SHARMA**

IRRIGATION in India has been carried on from times immemorial either by means of tanks, canals or wells. The idea of giving water rose with the advancement in the knowledge of man. First of all, the crop and other plants were mainly dependent upon the nature's liberty for water. No irrigational water was supplied to them but as the time went on and the human brain developed the knowledge of cultivation of crops, man began to supply water to the crops and thus the term IRRIGATION applies to only that quantity of water which is supplied to the plants artificially.

Till the time of British no systematic work was carried out in India, to bring about large areas of land under irrigation. It began on large scale only towards the end of nineteenth and during the beginning of the twentieth century, when India suffered seriously from acute famines. Numberless people died of food shortage in that period. Only on the recommendations of the various commissions and boards, schemes for the improvement in agriculture and irrigation were made and put into action. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Famine Commission of 1901 and the Irrigation Commission of 1903, a Central Agricultural Research Institute and an Agriculture College at Pusa, Darbhanga District in Bihar was established and after that we find that this Department of Agriculture has spread widely in this country. Every State has its own department. Along with this, Department of Irrigation and Power was established which has done a lot of work in this respect.

Even in spite of all the various engineering schemes carried out upto this time, figures have shown that only 6% or so of the water that flows annually through our rivers is being utilized and the rest of it is a waste. The farmers and growers do not feel the necessity and importance of water to the plants. They still depend upon the liberty of nature. Whenever and how much it may rain, they are not worried at all. If it rained too much, then it is a curse, and if it did not rain at all then too, it is a curse. In both the cases old type of farmers care for nothing. They would only say that it is the will of the Almighty God. He is contented only by saying this. He is thus satisfied with the present low yields of the crops. The major cause of this is the ignorance and blindfaith of the old farmers.

Water is not only required for irrigational purposes but also for other purposes such as power, hydro-electric etc. We can have hydro-electric power as a by-product from the irrigational water. When the water falls from high level to low level power is produced and this power is used as electricity in various ways for the facility of industry and man. Thus water serves two fold functions; for the plants, and for the power to other industries.

As a rule water flows from a higher level to the lower level. Our fields are not at all, at the same level in accordance with the level of the sources of water for the plants. The level of such sources is usually below the level of fields, so we have to raise this water. The devices by which the water can be lifted are termed as WATER LIFT. In India we have many types of water lifts and they are Persian wheel Charsa, Dhankali, Baldeo Balti, Egyptian Screw, Chain Pumps, Motor pumps, Swing basket, etc. All these have varied quanti-

ties of water lifted in a fixed time. Some of these are economical and others uneconomic, but all of them are suited to certain special conditions of level. Persian wheel, Chain and Motor pumps can raise water high upto minimum height of 30 feet, whereas Egyptian Screw, Swing basket and others can lift water only upto the height of 5 feet or so. Motor pump can even raise water more than 100 feet or so.

Similarly, there are different methods of irrigating the crops and other plants of economic importance. All the different prevalent methods in this country can be classified under these main heads, which are ; Ring or Basin. Flooding, Furrowing, Sprinkling. All these methods are suited for different crops and different conditions. Ring method is only well suited to the trees, while sprinkling is the best for nursery plants. Every method has got its own advantages and limitations. It is only on the skill and brain of the man as to where and how to apply the best suited method for that particular area or crop or the soil. All methods are equally best at their places.

Before partition, we had 24% area irrigated, but after partition we are left with only 10% area irrigated. All the best irrigated lands in Layallpur, Multan, Montgommery and other districts have gone to the share of our sister dominion, Pakistan, and it is the chief reason, why there has been acute shortage of food as well as of Jute in India. Of the 23 principal canals from the INDUS river (now in Pakistan) 21 are in Pakistan and 2 in India, while one is divided up between the two countries. In order to meet this deficit and to raise the irrigated area new plans and projects have been launched. Since partition the Government of India has given utmost priority in solving this critical problem and a lump sum money has been spent on new schemes. This is not only to make up the deficit but also to make the country so much self-sufficient in food etc. as to meet the needs of the growing population of this country.

In order to make India self-sufficient in food and prosperous in every respect Planning Commission was set up in March 1950 by a resolution of the Central Government. This Commission drafted the First Five-Year Plan–the first plan of its own kind in this country. According to the plan submitted by this Commission, to the Central Board of Irrigation Rs. 1900 crores were to be spent within fifteen years on this department. After finalizing the First Five-Year Plan, Rs. 434 crores were scheduled to be spent during 1951–56 ; Rs. 168 crores on irrigation and multipurpose projects and Rs. 266 crores on power projects. In this plan 102 Irrigation Projects were outlined, out of which 68 are under construction in different parts of the country. These projects are designed to irrigate 8.84 million acres and provide one million k. w. of power for industries, and ultimately these are expected to increase the area by 16.5 million acres.

The new projects whether for irrigation or for power generation or for other purposes are designed on an extended and ambitious scale. Some of them have already been completed while others are under construction and still some are on the papers yet. These projects are : Damodar Valley Project in West Bengal, Kosi Project in Bihar State, Hirakud Dam Project, Tikarpara Dam Project and Naraj Dam Project in Orissa State, Bhakra Dam Project and Bhakra Canal Project in East Punjab, Rampadasagar Project and Tungbhadra Project in Andhra State, etc. These projects are called MULTI-PURPOSE PROJECTS as they are designed to provide irrigation, hydro-electric power, flood control,

navigation, prevention of soil erosion by water, fish culture, and full use of water.

In U. P. alone we find the following Projects :—

Sharda Hydro-electric Project

Pipni Dam and Power Station Project

Jamuna Hydro-electric Project

The Rihand Dam Project

Madhopur Project

Apart from these projects many other minor projects are to be constructed or have been constructed.

In the Second Five-Year Plan, the incomplete work or the work untouched in the First Five-Year Plan will be finished. Apart from this 195 new projects of middle and small size will be completed. It is proposed and it is estimated that in the year 1960-61 the area under irrigation will be 27%, and for this purpose Rs. 416 crores will be spent on these projects. Apart from this amount a sum of Rs. 20 lakh will be spent for the construction of tube wells in the country. 34 million k. w. of power will be made available at the completion of the Secone Five-Year Plan. 18000 cities, villages and towns will be electrified. The average consumption of electricity per man will be 50 units.

When all the works proposed or started will be completed, we will not have to depend upon others, but we will be self-sufficient and there will be no scarcity of food etc. But all this depends upon the co-operation of the people of India. We should work hard, honestly and sincerely for the uplift of our country. This work can only be accomplished when the people will work with the spirit of Co-operation and nation-building,

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THE ART OF RAISING PRIZE-WINNING CROPS

By : C. R. SHARMA

THE land and labour resources of our country are immense but our Indian farmer is far behind in making a proper use of his assets. He has still to learn many things both from the progressive farmers of this Country and those of other Countries.

The Chinese farmer digs his Land three feet deep to turn up the sub-soil which has become rich in plant nutrients constantly leaching down from the top layers of soil. The Japanese farmer in a bid to maximize his produce from petty holdings makes an intensive use of fertilizers and lends his personal attention to every single plant of paddy as our Indian farmer would give only to garden plants, the Russian Communes are reclaiming every inch of eroded barren and even snow covered waste lands, similarly the American, Canadian and Australian farmers are extending the use of most versatile farm machinery and combines of intricate designs to cope with the shortage of manual labour in exploiting the lands to the fullest capacity, while on this side our simple Indian farmer is still groping in the darkness.

He is hardly able to raise even normal yields, that is why the agricultural production of our Country is falling short of our national requirements in case of almost every crop, whereas the population is on constant increase. There is definitely a great scope for increasing our farm yields as is evident from the high

standard of yields recorded every year by our Krishi Pandits. Only we have to utilize our land, labour and Capital resources more efficiently, and, we have no alternative but to do it.

For rich harvests and record yields it is very well understood that we need pure seeds of finest variety, good fertile land and ample water supply, but that is not all. These are only the means and next comes the question of using these good means to the fullest and therein lies the skill, the art and the technique of farming.

To raise a particular crop the farmer has to pay his personal attention to the Plant population from the very germination upto the harvest stage, and during this period a model farmer should constantly concentrate his efforts for fulfilling certain objectives, then only his crop may fair remarkably. It is intended to give a brief outline of these valuable objectives which a farmer must keep in the fore-front while raising any crop, may it be paddy, maize, Millets, Cotton, Sugarcane, Wheat, Barley or Vegetable crops like Potato, Tamoto, Onions, garlic etc. etc. These golden principles which apply to all crop are as follows :—

I. Raise Robust and Healthy Seedlings

Make sure that the young seedlings are robust and healthy. If it is a transplanted crop the seedlings in the nursery must be very stout and vigorous because experiments in paddy, onions, and tomatoes etc. have invariably shown that robust plants give at least 80 to 100% more yield than the weaker ones. The question is, how to raise robust plants in the nursery? For this it must be remembered that apart from heavy manuring of the nursery-bed the seed rate should be such that the individual plant get ample space, and, of course, the beds should be of convenient size to permit through weeding of nursery. If the type of soil is heavy, make raised beds because this will help in the removal of plants at the time of transplanting and also the breakage in the roots of the plants will be less with the result that the transplanted seedlings will get established into new bed immediately after planting thus getting an earlier start of several days as compared to those the roots of which get injured during transplantation. In very heavy soils addition of canal silt or sand mixed with well rotten compost in the nursery beds would give the same facility in addition to improvement in fertility.

Sow nursery as early as possible, because early start is the best principle for any race or competition. For directly sown crops the best method is to give a very heavy 'rauni' and apply nitrogenous fertilizers or mixtures at the time of sowing after preparing a fine seed bed. This would help the seedlings to establish a good deep root system which is most desirable. The object should be to encourage an early and vigorous growth at the seedling stage. Farmers are generally under the impression that application of fertilizers at sowing time results into higher water requirements later on and that the plants succumb to drought conditions more quickly. This is obviously a wrong notion because strong, stout plants with good root growth will not only resist the adverse climatic conditions better but would also fight pest, diseases and even weeds better, just as wellfed healthy child or a calf would do.

II. Ensure a quicker germination

A quick germination is most desirable to give the crop an early start. It hardly needs emphasis that the seed should be pure and free from diseases and weed seeds, and also the seed should not be

placed too deep or too shallow in the soil. The germination is often erratic in case of some crops but there is always some method to overcome such difficulties as is illustrated below :—

(a) For seeds which absorb lot of moisture, it is most convenient to soak the seed for some hours in simple water before sowing. Cotton seed particularly american varieties require 10 to 12 hours of soaking. Sugarcane sets also germinate better if soaked in water for 20 to 24 hours.

(b) Use of cupric-compound dusts such as Agrosan GN, Ceresan or even copper sulphate in treating the seed of wheat, barley, paddy, Jowar, Maize, Groundnut and Cotton etc. not only controls seed-borne diseases but also improves the germination. Generally 1½ to 2 chhatank of dust suffices for treating one maund of seed and it costs only 0.29 NP. to 0.36 NP. Similarly a dusting with BHC 5% over the sugarcane sets after placing them in the furrow, controls the incidence of white-ant and borers and at the same time makes the germination very efficient.

(c) The modern farmers use growth promoting chemicals and hormones to activate the young embryo in seeds and buds. Just dipping of sugarcane sets at both ends in 80% solution of Aretan or Agellol for a few minutes gives vigorous sprouting of buds (1½ to 2 oz Aretan in 4-5 Gallons of water is sufficient for treating seed for one acre and it costs only Rs. 1/4/-).

Similarly the produce of autumn crop of Potatoes can be used for the second spring crop only after a week of their digging up provided the tubers are cut into pieces and dried in shade after dipping them in 1% solution of Thiourea for one hour. 1½ oz. of Thiourea is enough for treating seed for one acre and it costs about Rs. 10/- p. acre.

(d) Berseem responds best when the seed is treated with its culture which contains its useful bacteria.

(e) Hard coated seeds of crops such as Senji require hard rubbing in mortar with pestle before actual sowing.

(f) When the germination is low on account of deficit moisture in the seed bed the field can be given a light irrigation to induce full germination, running of bar harrow and a blind hoeing also prove useful in sugarcane.

III. Get a uniform stand of the crop

Whichever the method of sowing, the final object is to get uniform stand of crop all over the field. If there are too many plants per acre there will be an undue competition amongst the Plants for light, space and food with the result the plants will be weak and thin, their roots would not expand fully, they will be liable to incidence of pests, diseases and lodging and finally the formation of grain or fruiting would be poor. If the crop is patchy or plants are too far apart there will be waste of land, labour and water and the yields will be again very low. Hence a farmer must clearly visualise how many plants per acre or bigha of a particular crop are desirable. If the number of plants exceeds the optimum then thin out the extra plants which are too close. Similarly, if the germination has been scanty, the gaps should be filled up immediately as soon as the germination is visibly complete.

In american Cotton for example the optimum number is 11616 plants per acre when sowing is done early or in time e.g. with a spacing of 2½′ row to row and 1½′ plant to plant, but in last sowings the spacing would be 2′ row to row and 1¼′ plant to plant e.g. a population of 17325 plants per acre. In Sugarcane similarly 40 thousand two-budded sets should be sown. In paddy the space

should be 9″ row to row and 6″ plant to plant and to get good yields at least 2-3 plants per hole should be planted.

It is never to be forgotten that the plants require individual attention and that is possible only if the crop is sown in lines. The idea is to provide ample space for every plant in the field.

IV. Conserve moisture and Plant-food material for the exclusive use of crop plants

A "Krishipandit" would never allow the valuable nutrients and soil moisture to be usurped by the Vagabond plants or weeds. The weeds compete with the crop plants just like adversaries and hence they must be killed by constant weeding, hoeing and interculture. A thorough weeding must be done at early stage of crop growth so that the Plants become strong enough to suppress their opponents. For prize winning crops a farmer should not hesitate in spending a few chips on the modern selective weed Killers (Weedicides) hormones and chemicals. To kill broad-leaved weeds in the Cereal crops like wheat and barley apply 2, 4-D@ 1Lb acid equivalent in 80 gallons of water (20 tins) just after 15 days of the germination of crop. Similarly C. M. U. is effective in killing perennial weeds which cannot be eradicated easily through cultural methods. A very ingenious method used by experienced farmers particularly for wheat crop is that after rauni they plough the land, run a light sohaga and leave it for a week so that most of the weed seeds embedded in the soil sprout up, then a good ploughing is given to destroy all these weed-seadlings before the crop is sown. Seed, of course, must be free from all weeds and diseases. A good interculture or hoeing as soon as the land is in Vattar after the first irrigation would conserve the moisture in soil so much so that there can be saving of at least one watering. It also helps the plants to throw out extensive root system.

V. Prevent Lodging

In crops like wheat, paddy and Sugarcane lodging alone would normally cause losses upto the tune of 20 and 25%. The farmers are seen helplessly cursing their bad luck when suddenly they see before their eyes a fine well nurtured crop lying prostrate in the field. But a modern farmer would not allow his crop to lodge because he knows how to prevent lodging.

The first step is to select such variety of the desired crop as would resist lodging even in rich soils, for instance C. 518 Wheat and Sugarcane varieties other than Co. 312 resist lodging to a great extent.

Second step is to encourage deep and extensive root system in the plants at early stages through measures already discussed. After all it is through roots that the plants remain anchored to the ground, naturally stronger and more extensive the roots the better the plant will hold against storms and impacts of wind. Deep mellow soil, heavy rauni, delayed first irrigation all help to withstand lodging.

Third step is to provide effective wind breaks around the field by growing rows of Castor, Jantar and Arhar on the borders across the wind direction. Castor and Jantar are good for Sugarcane; Jantar for paddy; and Arhar or Castor for protecting Wheat.

For prized crop like Sugarcane the farmer must take pains to tie up the canes every month as it grows thus the tallest sugarcane of 18′ to 20′ length requires at least 3 to 4 tying operations. Similarly for paddy in Japan the farmers tie strings all around the plots to check lodging.

VI. Prevent incidence of pests and diseases

An intelligent farmer knows the pests and diseases that are liable to attack his crops. He does not wait till the pests or diseases actuālly appear on the crop, rather he would take the necessary measures well in advance to prevent the incidence before hand. He knows that the pests and diseases multiply at such a quick rate that in a very short time they cause heavy losses to the crops and become uncontrollable.

Against all the Seed borne diseases treat the seed with dusts before sowing. The pests which attack the seedlings are checked by dusting the field with BHC just before the crop germinates. Similarly to prevent the attack of aphis, bugs, borers, Jassid and white fly etc. spray the crop with pesticides, such as D. D. T. or D. D. T. cum BHC a week a-head of the probable attack and by repeating the spraying after another fortnight the crop generally escapes from the attack, only in very serious cases a thind spraying would be necessary.

After the crop is over the remaining stubbles, trash, pods or other parts of the crop must be disposed off carefully so that pests or diseases do not carry over to next-year crop by hibernating on such material. Good ploughing and also burning of the material would destroy the pests and diseases that continue to live in the remains of the crop.

VII. Always fix a target

No target, no joy of achievement! Whatever be the type of business or farming the path to progress demands some conscious efforts, a bit of planning and lot of perseverance.

The fertility of soil is improved gradually and so also the increase in the yields of crops takes place steadily. Giving due weightage to all the resources a progressive farmer has to closely watch for the limiting factors at every stage and only by removal of those shortcomings, the production of crop goes a step further. No progress is possible unless a target is fixed and wilful efforts are made to achieve that target.

How much yield per acre is to be secured, how many crops are to be raised on one field in a year or two, and what are the expected profits, such are the questions which a progressive farmer asks himself and finds suitable answers to them. Farming then becomes a real game for him, he plans his field operations, takes all possible measures for safeguarding the crop from natural hazards and inclemancy of weather, and with every step forward he gets the thrill of his success. This spirit is badly required in our farmers.

In fact it would not be an exaggeration to suggest, that the practical experiences and findings of such progressive farmers can prove highly valuable and dependable, if not more, at least as much as those of the academic research workers provided the problems which need research for solution come from the progressive farmers in the first instance, and, then the research and field trials are conducted jointly e.g. the farmer and the Scientist going hand in hand comparing their observations and interpreting experiences of field and laboratory. The exchange of views and negotations between the research workers and the farmers, at present, is hardly conspicuous and that is one reason why the confidence of the farmers is not easily won for taking up a new practice or recommendation. It is highly desirable that our farmers not only make enquiries and satisfy their doubts but also they participate in the research programme by testing and

trying promising methods side by side with the research scientist. They will thus share the joy of achievements, and, above all the findings or recommended practices would instantly be taken up by the farmers without any strain or loss of time on the part of extension machinery.

CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS IN MADHYA PRADESH

By : SHARAD CHANDRA JAIN

IN THE First Five-Year Plan it was urged that in all States programmes for consolidation of holdings should be expanded and pursued with vigour. The Second Five-Year Plan repeats the same proposal. The advantages of consolidation of holdings are well known. Consolidation saves time and labour, facilitates improvement of land through irrigation as well as dry farming practices, provides an opportunity for replanning individual holdings and the village abadi and providing roads and other amenities.

Consolidation programmes have been in operation in different parts of the country for more than a generation, and it does not raise any controversial issue of policy. Consolidation in Mahakoshal began in 1928 with the object of equalising the holding by a periodical distribution so as to ensure that each cultivator in turn got different kinds of land. The former Madhya Pradesh Government then passed a law "The Central Provinces Consolidation of Holdings Act 1928, under which the consolidation of holdings in any particular locality could be undertaken after two thirds of the population of that area had asked for it.

Spread over seven districts of Mahakoshal, holdings of 287, 288 persons in 3,191 villages covering 2,784, 225 acres have been consolidated. The immediate advantage to the revenue staff was an 80 percent cut in 5,36,371, Khasra (land record) numbers.

In order to ascertain the present conditions of the villages consolidated between 1930-31 to 1944-45 in regard to total plot numbers, cultivable plots, occupied area, number of holders, average size of plots etc. We have conducted a survey of about 200 villages consolidated between this period in Chhattisgarh region. However, it is beyond the scope of this paper to present all the results here. We preferred to show the conditions of 16 villages consolidated in Raipur Tahsil in 1930-31 and the condition of one particular village in the following.

Table I

Statement showing the average conditions of 16 consolidated villages in Raipur Tahsil after consolidation (1930-31) and at present (1957-58).

	Average of 16 villages after consolidation 1930-31	Average of 16 villages at present 1957-58	Total increase over 1930-31	Percentage increase over 1930-31 (Approx)
Occupied Area (Acres)	819	812	-7	-8%
Total Plot Numbers	321	695	374	116%
Cultivable Plot Nos.	248	623	375	151%
Permanent Holders	79	138	59	74%
Average size of cultivable plot in acres	3.00	1.30	-1.7	-44%

This table gives a fair picture of average condititons of 16 villages consolidated in 1930-31 in comparison with the average conditions at present (1957-58). The total plot number just after consolidation were 321 increased to 691 in 1957-58 which shows an increase of 374 plots or 116 percent. The cultivable plots show an alarming increase. Just after consolidation there were 321 cultivable plots which increased to 695 plots. Thus it shows an increase of 374 plots or of 151 percent. In other words, the cultivable plots have increased by more than double. Similarly the permanent holders show an increase of 59 or 74% at present compared to the holders after consolidation. The average size of cultivable plots increased as a result of consolidation to 3 acres and now it shows a decline by 1.7 acres or by 44 percent.

This leads to an inevitable conclusion that within 27 years' period it seems there was no consolidation at all. The available figure on the subject and more than that personal visit to the villages in different parts of the Tahsil are more than convincing for bringing home the fact that consolidation has lost all its advantages claimed at present in comparison to the year of Consolidation. All the plots have so much fragmented over the villages that it is easy to conclude that there was no consolidation at all. The average size of cultivable plots per head has decreased very much due to an increase in the number of permanent holders resulting in low productivity per capita.

The Extent of Fragmentation

Here we shall present the result of our survey in a particular village "Atari" in Raipur Tahsil consolidated in 1930-31 in order to show the extent of subdivision and fragmentation within a period of 27 years. The following Table gives the condition of the same village just after consolidation and at present (1957-58):

Table II

Size of holding	Plot distributed under each size just after consolidation 1930-31	Plot distributed under each size at present 1957-58	Increase or decrease in plots	Percentage increase or decrease.
Total Plot	198[1]	488[2]	+ 290	+146.5%
Upto 10 acre	13	57	+ 44	+338.5%
.10 to 1 acre	72	290	+ 218	+302.7%
1 to 5 acres	89	119	+ 30	+ 33.7%
5 to 10 acres	6	12	+ 6	+100.0%
10 to 20 acres	10	8	− 2	− 20.0%
20 to 50 acres	5	1	− 4	− 80.0%
Above 50 acres	3	1	− 2	− 66.6%
Total	198	488		

1. Total Plots just after consolidation (1930-31)
2. Total Plots at present (1957-58)

The most striking feature arising out of this table is that, on the one hand, the plot number shows a heavy increase in the holdings size below one acre at present, compared to the conditions after consolidation, and on the other, the plot number shows a moderate decrease in the holdings size over 10 acres at present compared to the conditions after consolidation. In other words, the process of fragmentation was so speedy that nearly 98 percent of the total holdings had been put to an uneconomic size.

In the following table we give the extent to which the particular holding have been sub-divided or fragmented at present (1957-58) compared with the year (1930-31) of consolidation in the same village.

Table III

Distribution in times	Number of holdings fragmented	Total Holdings
2 Times	24	48
3 ,,	13	39
4 ,,	10	40
5 ,,	2	10
8 ,,	2	16
12 ,,	1	12
14 ,,	1	14
16 ,,	2	32
17 ,,	1	17
18 ,,	2	36
20 ,,	1	20
33 ,,	1	33
49 ,,	1	49
Total	61	366

Thus, 61 holdings have been fragmented from 2 to 49 times, gives an increase of 366 holdings. From 366 holdings we must deduct 61 plots which have already been included in the fragmented plots, so that the total increase comes to about 305 plots. The actual increase in total plots according to Table II is 290, which is less by 15 plots. The reason is that in Table II we have included these 15 plots which have been recently fragmented but the cases are still pending in the revenue courts, and are expected to be decided within a month or more.

The above survey shows that consolidation has lost sll its benefits within a period of 27 years. According to our survey of nearly 200 villages, consolidation looses all its benefits within an "average basic year period of 14 to 18 years. After such period we cannot claim the advantages of consolidation. This condition is well applicable to the the rest of the provinces where consolidation started 20 years ago, and to all the under developed countries of the world.

Alternatives :-One alternative has been adopted in the Punjab is reconsolidation of the consolidated villages again. Unfortunately, we do not share with the idea. We believe that any scheme in the planned development must give its benefit above cost atleast for 50 years, but as said above, the benefit of consolidation is only for one quarter of a period initiated by us. One extreme alternative may be to stop consolidation of all and evolve some other process (of the same type) resembling with consolidation. However, we do not consider it proper here to give some other alternative. The only purpose of this paper is to bring into light the factual information of the present conditions of the villages consolidated in the past, say before 20 years.

We wish to draw the attention of the planners by saying one thing before we conclude this paper, that in the recent past or in the villages consolidated after 1950 all the big "chucks" prepared as a result of consolidation of holdings have been subdivided and fragmented in anticipation of ceiling on land holdings. The village records of the consolidated Villages show that all the big holdings created through consolidation have disappeared mostly by sale, transfer, partition etc.

Thus it seems that there is a basic contradiction between the parallel recommendations of the Planning Commission on land reforms i.e. "on ceiling on landholding and consolidation of holdings". These recommendations can not go together. Today we prepare a scheme of consolidation and create big

plots, tomorrow they all will disappear (mostly by sale and transfer) due to the fear of ceiling on lands. Thus we favour that unless the ceiling is completed, consolidation of holdings should be stopped. Otherwise it would be disadvantageous in the interest of the reorganization of agricultural holdings, Government finance, production etc., and ultimately leading to frustration.

"IS CO-OPERATIVE FARMING A PANACEA"?

By : RAM PAL SINGH VARMA

WE are surrounded by so many problems, the most acute of them is the food shortage. In order to feed our population, which is yearly increasing by about two percent, we have to import about 4 to 5 million tons of food grains from outside. This import of food grains is effecting adversely our foreign exchange resources, which are greatly required by us for the purchase of foreign machines etc. for developing our undeveloped economy.

In order to tackle this food shortage and also to improve the lot of the peasantry while other measures are suggested, great emphasis is being laid down on the adoption of Co-operative Farming. There are both the bright as well as dark sides of this issue. The bright side expects much from it while the other i.e. the dark, doubts its success under the present Indian conditions.

The bright side i.e. the idea in favour of its adoption pins its faith in its potentialities and assures that it will result in the adoption of improved means of cultivation and increased production. According to it, this measure will introduce the Marketing and Technical economics in farming.

The Marketing economics will occur due to :—

(i) Reduction in the costs of buying or selling.

(ii) Relative improvement in the farmers' bargaining power.

The reduction in costs of buying and selling will be possible due to the following :—

(i) Reduction in book-keeping expenses.

(ii) Delivery of the things over a lesser area and at one or less times.

(iii) Saving in wastage during the process of dividing the produce.

(iv) Grading up of the produce.

On the other hand the Technical economics will be derived from a more economical operation of the farm. The Farm-buildings will represent a smaller relative expense due to the increase in the size of the farm and the specialized and expensive machinery will be operated more continuously.

One more advantage of such farming put forth is that it will give the opportunity of reducing labour costs by putting each worker to the task to which he is most suited and the maximum advantage both of natural aptitude and of that acquired skill and speed which comes from constantly performing the same operation will be taken.

While considering the other side i.e. the dark one, of the issue we come across the following points :—

Firstly, it is seen that the cultivators are mostly illiterate. They neither under-

stand the principles of the co-operative farming nor can appreciate the spirit behind it.

Secondly, the spirit of Individualism prevails among the farmers. They prefer to cultivate their land seperately and the institution of joint family, having its joint-cultivation is getting weak. They have developed love for themselves and do not take the same interest in a joint undertaking.

Thirdly, there will be difficulties in managing the co-operative farms due to the paucity of literate persons with good managing capacity among the peasantry. The same difficulty will arise in finding sincere and honest persons for this work. Due to these the joint-management may not be very satisfactory.

Fourthly, the peasants may think psychologically that their social status and security will be reduced to certain extent.

Fifthly, the same attention and constant care towards the farm-operations, up-keep and use of farm live-stock, machineries and implements etc. will not be paid as in private farming. Due to these the production will suffer, and the cost of production will also not be as low as in private farming.

Besides, there will arise other difficulties also regarding—

(i) the supply of foreign exchange for the purchase of heavy and costly Machines.

(ii) Availability of fuel supply.

(iii) Shortage of Technical Personnel.

(iv) Problem of surplus idle capital of the members i. e. the surplus live stock, and implements etc.

(v) Problem of extra labour which will be out of employment due to the adoption of labour saving machines.

(VI) Requirement of huge sum for layout, fencing, farm buildings and irrigation facilities.

(VII) Difficulties of supervision will also arise due to large units of farming.

(VIII) Direct economic interest of the farmers will go away. The landholders being assured of a regular income will not take interest in the working of the farm.

(IX) Expenses will be increased due to the employment of the managerial, clerical and other such staff.

Balancing both the sides, we conclude, that the problem must be studied thoroughly with a cool mind before bringing it into actual practice. First of all the favourable ground should be prepared by moulding the minds of the peasants. They should be educated and made able to understand and grasp the things rightly.

Our ultimate aim must be Co-operative farming but we should not jump at it at once. In the beginning we should apply the weapon of Co-opertion in supplying better seeds, implements, manures, fertilizers, cheap credit, consumers goods, extending irrigational and marketiug facilities etc. The programme of the consolidation of holdings should also be taken up through co-operatives and the peasants should be made co-operative minded.

The success of the co-operative farming should be demonstrated on common lands, received in Bhoodan and Gramdan and also on the newly broken and reclaimed lands by starting on them the co-operative farming societies of the landless labourers. The success of these demonstrations will have a very good effect on the peasantry in general. They will be automatically attracted towards them and shall form their co-operative-farming societies themselves. The societies organised in this way will be true co-

operatives in character and shall function very successfully.

In the meantime the small and cottage Industries should also be developed so that they may be able to absorb the surplus labour force.

The fixation of maximum ceiling on land and the levying of taxation beyond that limit is also essential. It will help in the release of much land, which may be cultivated on co-operative basis.

More facilities should be provided to those cultivators who decide to form their co-operative societies and cultivate their land co-operatively. This measure will also encourage the cultivators for adopting the co-operative farming.

In the end let us pray for the success of co-operative farming on our land, as it is the only hope of our Rural India.

MARKETING OF WOOL IN RAJASTHAN

By: R. S. GUPTA

RAJASTHAN produces 29.42 million lbs. of raw wool annually which is 45.2 percent of the total wool production of the country. The wool-growers retain only very small quantities of wool for personal consumption, the rest of it finds its flow to the wool mandis for assembly and distribution.

The way the produce is marketed determines theshare that will go to the primary producer and if he is enabled to obtain a fair return for what he offers for sale, he receives great incentive to improve and increase his production. The guaranteed prices of wool in Great Britain during the four years, 1952 to 1955, brought about a significant increase in her sheep population and wool production. The existing methods of wool marketing in Rajasthan, as also throughout India, are so unsatisfactory and so unorganised that these affect adversely the primary producer who suffers greatly mainly because of his illiteracy and poverty.

Defects in marketing organisation not only jeopardize the production of wool but also cause a big drain on the resources of the country because the home manufacturer prefers to buy in foreign markets because of uncertainty in the home market about the supply of Indian wool of assured quality. The removal of the existing defects in marketing is a pre-requisite for any improvement in the promising wool industry as a whole. Before any suggestions can be offered for removing the defects, a study of the existing system is essential.

Preparation of wool for market

In the important wool-producing countries of the world, the primary producer classifies the fleeces into grades of greatest possible uniformity at the time of shearing itself with a view to obtaining the best prices. Here, on the other hand, the preparation of wool, if at all, is in negative terms. Not only that the crude methods of shearing already reduce the staple length of wool and lower its quality but wool from different parts of the body and of different qualities is all mixed up. Such a practice reduces the market value of the produce.

Besides these defects which crop up at the time of shearing, there is, in many cases, tntentional mixing of dirt, dung and other extraneous matter to the fleece after it is shorn but before it is rolled. Flock-owners take recourse to this pra-

ctice only to increase the fleece weight because the price is calculated on weight basis. Sometimes, the fleece is moistened with water or sheep milk before the adulterants are added to it so that these may stick better. It is needless to say that all these positively unhealthy practices work against the very interests of the producer besides bringing bad name to the trade as a whole. At the time of determining the price of wool, the lowest quality present in the lot is considered and usually a much higher margin for impurities is allowed than is warranted by the actual presence of the adulterants. Thus, the producer seldom obtains the full value of his wool because, while preparing the wool for the market, the value of purity and uniformity of wool is not sufficiently appreciated by him.

Sale in Villages

A large proportion of wool is disposed of in the village itself because the individual producer has usually a small quantity of wool which makes it neither convenient nor economical for him to take it to the market himself. Moreover, the average producer is often indebted to the village money-lender or at times even to the village beopari and there is usually a tacit understanding that the wool would be sold at his hands in settlement of the debts and the interest due thereon. Only those of the producers visit the neighbouring wool mandis for the disposal of their wool who maintain comparatively larger flocks and, therefore, have a larger quantity of wool to sell, in addition to having transport facilities and a knowledge of market conditions.

Methods of Sale in Villages

There are two ways in which wool is sold in the villages : the sale of wool after it is shorn and sale when it is on sheep's back only. Both these methods are widely prevalent. In Jodhpur and Barmer wool is sold only after shearing but in other parts of the State the percentage varies from 20 to 80 percent. The percentãge of wool sold on sheep's back is higher in Jaipur Division than elsewhere. In Jaipur Division the transactions of wool on sheep's back are generally on the 'Sahi' system, i. e., mortgaging of the ensuing wool crop by the sheep-owner on receiving a small sum as an earnest money. In some cases the pressure of financial needs may not leave any other alternative with the sheep-owner but to agree to sell his wool at the hands of the party lending him the money. The moneylenders, being fully aware of his weakness, take full advantage of the situation.

Price-Settlement in Villages

If wool is sold when it is on sheep's back, prices are settled, very often, in advance and have no relation to the market conditions. In other cases too, the flock-owners are rarely aware of the correct market prices and are usually victims of unfair deals because it is rarely that quality of wool is given any consideration at the time of price settlement by the village merchants. Moreover, the financial weakness and indebteness of the primary producer often weaken his bargaining power. Besides low prices, the producer is also robbed of his fair share by the practices of underweighment and the use of incorrect weights by the village middlemen.

Movement of Produce to Mandis

The three agencies purchasing wool in the villages from the primary producers are : the village merchants, the village money-lenders and the agents of arhatiyas. The village merchants fall into two categories: primary village merchants and bigger merchants. The former are men of small means and often limit their transactions from 8 to 10 maunds only. They

sell the wool collected by them from a few villages to bigger merchants, who may or may not deal directly with the producers of wool. The trade of these traders is between 25 fo 30 maunds and they send their collections to the nearest mandi. The village money-lenders mostly receive wool in settlement of their debts but at times they purchase directly from the wool producers also. They may send their collection to the mandi or even sell it to the bigger merchant in the village. The wool purchased by the agents of arhatiyas in the villages reaches mandi direct and the question of a further sale in that case does not arise.

It has been estimated that about 50 percent of the wool is taken to the mandi by the agents of arhatiyas and the remaining by village merchants and owners of large flocks of sheep. The practice of adulteration followed by the primary producers may again be repeated, to some extent, by the village merchants. With the exception of that there is no other preparation of wool before taking it to the maddis.

Arrival of Wool in Mandis

The wool from the various wool producing centres comes to the important assembling markets or Mandis. The important wool mandis in Rajasthan are Beawar, Bikaner, Pali, Marwar and Kekri. Some wool, specially from Jaipur Division, is also taken to Delhi wool market. Beawar which was the best wool Mandi of the country after partition has recently begun to face competition from Bikaner and Delhi.

The wool is brought to the Mandis in special bags or boras which are sufficiently long and wide and usually contain about 3 maunds of wool. The means of transport from short distances are carts and camels while wool from distant places is booked to Mandis by rail or is sent in motor trucks.

Wool handled in Bikaner Mandi is better in quality because the arrivals are from neighbouring areas which produce comparatively finer wool. Arrivals in Bikaner Mandi are estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 1,20,000 maunds per year. Beawar receives wool not only from different parts of Rajasthan but also from outside and the estimated arrivals there are approximately 1,50,000 maunds per year. Pali is comparatively a small market of recent origin.

On its arrival in the municipal limits of the town octroi has to be paid, the rate of which varies from town to town. It is Re. 1 per maund at Bikaner, Rs. 2 per maund at Delhi and only 6 as. per maund at Beawar.

The seller, unless he is new, usually takes his wool to the commission agent with whom he has had dealings. If the village merchant has been financed by a particular commission agent, which is not uncommon, it is understood that the wool would be taken to him for sale.

Buyers and sellers in Mandis

In the Mandis wool is mostly purchased by those engaged in the export trade; a little quantity is also lifted by carpet manufacturers and other woollen mills in the country through their representatives in the Mandis. There are two or rather three types of exporters. There are firms which export wool to foreign countries on their own account, while a few others deal in small quantities and book the wool purchased by them in the Mandis to well-known exporters in Bombay. Lastly, there are representatives, in practically all the important wool Mandis, of well-established Indian and foreign firms of exporters having their offices at Bombay and other ports.

The buyers of wool in the Mandis obtain their supplies either from commission agents or the stockists of wool.

In Binaker brokers are usually employed whereas in Beawar, Pali and Kekri the buyers contact the dealers directly.

Trade names of wool

The trade names under which wool is usually sold are more after the name of the place from where it comes or the Mandi in which it is sold than after the breed of sheep producing it. The different names under which wool produced in the State is marketed are Bikaneri, Rajputana, Marwari, Beawari and Jaisalmeri. According to the colour of the clip, there may be several grades of the same quality, e. g. Bikaneri White, Bikaneri Yellow, etc. The practice of mixing up wool produced by different breeds of sheep and selling it under one general trade name, *inter alia*, discourages the flock-owners from making attempte at purifying their flocks and rearing sheep of only one breed.

Settlement of Prices

The commission agents or merchants show the wool available for sale to the prospective buyers who take out of the lot a little sample with a view to examining the possible yield of clean wool, technically known as '*Utara*', per maund from that lot. The yield of clean wool is estimated on the basis of moisture contents and the presence of extraneous matter like burrs, thorns, dirt, leafy material, sheep dung, etc in the wool. Other factors considered by the prospective buyers at the time of examining the wool are the colour of the wool, which depends mostly on the season of the clip and the locality from which it comes, quality, appearance and washed or unwashed condition of the fleece. It requires a good deal of experience to correctly estimate the 'yield' or 'Utara' and the buyer has to be very careful while examining a lot of wool because uniformity throughout the lot lacks rather badly. Buyers have become fully aware of the deceptive practice followed by wool-growers and make full allowance for all the detectable and undetectable adulterants while estimating the yield of wool.

After the yield has thus been estimated, the price is settled. There are two ways of price settlement, namely, by private treaty or mutual agreement and by auction. Price is said to be settled by private treaty or mutual agreement when there is an offer and counter offer for the price and ultimately the bargain is struck. Mutual agreement also can be arrived at in two ways; by open offers and counter offers in which case the persons watching the deal are aware of the price offered; and by Settlement under cover in which case only the selling agent and buyer or his broker know about the offers and counter-offers and the others present remain in dark about them. The practice of price settlement under cover prevails in the majority of wool markets not only in Rajasthan but also in other parts of the country.

Very small lots of wool are sold by open auction. In Kekri Mandi auction system is increasingly used for price settlement. The Wool Grading and Marketing Organisations in the State are also trying to encourage open auction system by arranging auctions and proving that a higher price for the primary producer can in this way be obtained.

The prices are invariably settled per maund of 40 seers. After wool is cleaned, sorted, classified, the unit is changed from maund to pound both for internal and export trade.

Prices vary according to the quality of wool. It has been observed that prices are more or less steady between January and April, begin to weaken thereafter and again rise progressively after August

until the ceiling is reached in December. Moreover, wool prices, not only in Rajasthan but also in India, closely follow the price trend at Liverpool wool auctions.

Market Charges

After the auction of tare, i. e., the weight of bora, from the gross weight, a rebate–the rate of which varies from Mandi to Mandi–is usually allowed for loss of weight and for the presence of burrs (*kanta*) and black and grey (*kali-meli*) wool. Besides the commission which varies from Rs. 1-50 per maund in Bikaner to 75 nP. to Re. 1 in Beawar and Pali Mandis and Rs. 2 in Delhi Mandi, other charges are *palledari*, *tulai*, charity, transport charges, cash discount, etc. The is no uniformity in these charges, both as regards levy and the rate, in different Mandis.

Cleaning and Baling of wool

After the wool is purchased, it is removed to the godowns, mostly owned by baling press, where it undergoes the process of cleaning. First of all sweaty wool is separated from non-sweaty, very coarse from medium and fine wool, white from yellow and coloured wool and the visible impurities like dung, leaves and other extraneous matter are removed. In many cases this preliminary sorting is dropped out. After sorting, wool, if it is dirty, is washed, usually in tanks, and then is dried either on kachcha or or pucca floor according to its availability. In Bikaner wool is usually not washed because it does not contain grease and the scarcity of water also makes it difficult, if not impossible.

From the washed and dried wool burrs and thorns are removed. These stick to the fleece at the time of sheep's grazing. In Beawar and Pali burrs are removed by beating the wool with a flat iron plate or tong know as *patti*. In Delhi and Beawar deburring is done by scissors. Both these methods are defective because the cutting reduces the staple length and by beating burrs are broken and small pieces often continue in the wool. In *foreign* countries mechanical devices are used for burr removal.

Washed and deburred wool is then finally sorted with a view to removing the pieces of black, grey and coloured wool and then different qualities and types of wool are mixed to make up a particular type for export purposes for which there are no definite and well-defined standards and very often vary from shipper to shipper.

The last step in the process of cleaning is the caning of wool to remove impurities still sticking to it, to homogenize the various varieties mixed up and to produce a fluffiness. At Bikaner it is done with wooden stick, known as *'Kamri Lagana'* and at Beawar with iron bars, known as *'Sariya Lagana'*. The method followed at Bikaner is considered to be slightly better.

It has been estimated that the cost of cleaning varies from Rs. 6 to Rs. 15 per maund the variation depending on the standard of wool to be cleaned.

The cleaned wool is pressed into bales with the help of machines. The baling centres in Rajasthan are at Beawar, Bikaner, Pali, Kekri, Bhilwara and Osian. Wool now cannot be exported unless it has been graded and marked in accordance with the Agmark standards prescribed by the Government.

Defects In Marketing And Their Removal

The greatest defect that affects the marketing of wool creeps in at the time sheep are shorn. Sheep are generally not washed before shearing with the result that the fleece that reaches the market is full of dirt and dust, is unclean and lacks appearance.

Sheep are shorn on dirty ground with blunt scissors by inefficient shearers. Moreover, wool from different parts of the body, which is not uniform throughout, and from different breeds of sheep, is all mixed up mostly because the individual flocks are so small that if wool from different parts of the body and of different breeds is kept separate it will, in most cases, not make a marketable lot. The present market demand hardly presses, for it even. The defects of shearing are so serious that they cannot be remedied afterwards. Then the wool growers resort to intentional mixing of dirt, dust, dung, etc. to increase the weight of wool, a practice which harms him more than anybody else. The "Report on Marketing of Wool and Hair in India" (1946) remarked "The method of handling wool by producers is not only unsatisfactory but, in many instances, suicidal."

Besides the defective handling of wool it is sold mostly in the villages to parties who are aware of the financial weakness of the wool-grower and his lack of bargaining strength and therefore take advantage of the situation.

To improve the condition of sheep-rearing, the wool-grower must actually benefit in terms of money by receiving better price for his produce. The only hopeful remedy lies in setting up of co-operative societies by the wool-growers. The wool-grower in United Kingdom, U. S. A. and Australia is already realising maximum proceeds for his produce through co-operative sales organisations.

To make co-operatives succeed in their objectives efforts should be made through various means of demonstration to create an urge among the wool-growers to co-operative action. Co-operation without the active co-operation of those whom it seeks to benefit is more likely to fail than succeed.

As an experimental measure, a few co-operative societies may be organised in areas with sufficiently large number of wool-growers. The functions of the primary co-operative society must be quite comprehensive so as to include all the activities of the wool-growers till wool is finally disposed of. To leave even one activity out of the ambit of the society would only offset all the benefits likely to accrue from those activities covered by it. The functions of such a society, therefore, shall be the provision of credit against the next wool clip of the sheep-farmers, arrangement of wool-shearing in community shearing sheds according to correct methods of shearing, preparation of wool for market and finally its marketing, besides arranging for better breeding facilities. Thus all the wool would be collected by the primary co-operative society in the village and about 80 percent of the price at current market rates may be advanced to the wool-growers and the final adjustment may be made after the wool is sold in the Mandi and the account thereof is received by the primary co-operative society.

There is another alternative too to settle the accounts of wool-growers. Immediately a guaranteed minimum price may be given to the wool-growers and if later a higher price is realised than the minimum, half of it may be distributed among the wool-growers and half may be kept as a reserve to meet any loss in future. The British Wool Marketing Plan works in this way and can well be adopted here.

The wool-collected by primary wool-growers societies may then be disposed of in Mandis through the wool-growers co-operative unions. These unions, in the beginning, may be division-wise or Mandi-wise and their membership may be open to primary co-operative societies.

The Unions shall have godowns in the Mandis so that wool can be stored to avoid glut in the market and can await a favourable market. Moreover, the godowns can be centres for wool classing and grading according to well-defined standards. The Unions can also encourage open auctions which shall definitely fetch better prices than under present price settlement under cover. There shall also be saving in marketing charges and expenses, thus increasing the return to the wool-grower.

The Unions may then form the Rajasthan Wool Growers' Federation which shall confine its activities to planning and directing the movement and shall look after the organisational set-up and prepare ground for the smooth working of the primary societies and the unions. It shall work as the central co-ordinating authority. To ensure the success of the plan, Federation may have representatives of the Government and the wool merchants in addition to those from the Unions.

To finance these organisations loan and subsidies from the Government will be necessary, especially when credit is to be linked with marketing and storing of wool.

On the successful working of the wool-growers' co-operative societies at primary level and of the unions in the Mandis hinges the prosperity of the wool-grower and the encouragement he is to receive for future improvement of the sheep and wool industry.

THE 1961 CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRE

By: MAHESHCHAND

PREPARATIONS for the coming population census (1961) are already being made. There is already a permanent office of the Registrar General of India for the purpose of population data. During the last twelve months the topic has come up for discussion twice in meetings of experts. The first time it was discussed by the First Conference of Research in National Income and the Second time a symposium on the subject was held in the Statistical Section of the Indian Science Congress (Delhi, 1959).

Although there is a permanent office, the incumbent of the office of Registrar General has changed and this is bound to affect the future pattern of census. It is not known that the draft questionnaire in mind now is on the same lines as were favoured by the previous incumbent, and the secretariat of the Registrar General is too young to maintain a continuity of thoughts. But perhaps in a developing economy it is not necessary that comparability of census data be deemed more important than the requirements of planning.

It may be recalled that on the eve of the last census yeatts had admitted at a symposium on Population Census held at the time of Indian Science Congress that sex and age seem to be the only two questions for which a census should be taken and all other data should be left to be collected on a sampling basis. Today we find that there is a proposal to reduce the number of questions but not to two.

At the last census it was said that there were fourteen questions and at the coming census there shall perhaps be ten questions. The table below shows the contents of the last census questionnaire and what perhaps may be in the mind of the Registrar General now :—

(*Continued from page 128*)

Joint-co-operative farms, envisaging pooling together of lands, would result in the negation of this approach and outlook. Obviously, the Co-operative farms—even if they promise a very moderate standard of living with 8 hours a day of work—would have to spend lavishly and substantially. This fact along with the intensification of agriculture is bound to have a reflection in the cost of production per unit. So, unless the measuring rod of money is dispensed with in the matter of agricultural production, the co-operatives would run into liquidation, or continue as unproductive enterprise fed on by the state-bounties and subsidies.

If we decide to go just the other way to escape the heavy financial stakes, the China-way is open for us to convert the entire land into the Communes, where men, women and children may be commissioned to work under a semi-military discipline, irrespective of the considerations of real cost and sufferings involved. That pre-supposes regimentation, a regimentation in all the sectors of national economy with a view to avoid the over-throw of the sponsoring government at the battle of the ballot. This stands for re-emergence of a class of sweated labour, deprived of even ordinary liberties of life available under even capitalistic structure.

Joint-Co-operative—a retrograde step.

'The peasant-production in Poland ; remarked Mr. Gomulka in October 1956, 'per hectare was 16.7 percent higher than in the Co-operative farms and 37.2% higher than in the State-farms ! In Poland and so in Yogoslovia, both of them being under communist regimes, the idea of co-operative farming had to be given up for the better, for in Poland, though only 9.2%of land was actually collectivised, the entire agricultural sector was beseiged with declining production because of the general fear--psychosis it developed even in the peasants who were not immediately affected by it. A similar repercussion is most likely in India, too, the moment the proposed land-reforms are pushed ahead.

Mechanized farming on large-scale results in comparatively smaller physical output, as is evident from the statistics available for the purpose. The yield of wheat per hectare in quintals is lowest at 9.3 in U. S. S. R. as against 12.2 in the U. S. A.. 28.5 in the United Kingdom, and 34.4 in Denmark, the size of the unit of cultivation in the case of the last two countries being smaller than those of the former ones. Even in the case of Japan-the holdings there are smaller than our own-the yield of wheat per hectare comes to 22.6 quintals, about 2½ times that of U. S. S. R.

The tale in the case of rice-production too, is not much different. The highest yield per hectare is 48 5 quintals in Japan, whereas the corresponding figures for U. S. A. and U. S. S. R. are 28.3 and 25 respectively.

In India too, the studies made by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute of Sugarcane Production are revealing. The ploughing by bullocks yielded 410 maunds of sugarcane per acre as against 356 maunds per acre only, where 10-inch -deep farming with tractor was practised.

Is it not, therefore, a safe surmise to hold that large-scale mechanized farming, a corollary of Joint-co-operative farming, is likely to result in fall of physical output per acre, and is a step retrograde in nature ?

Conclusions and Suggestions

Really the path of Joint-co-operative farming-rather Co-operative production as a whole—is beset with unsurmountable amount of difficulties, howsoever ideologically sound be the proposal. If we are really sincere about solving the food-problem and benefiting our so-far neglected farmers, it is enough for the present to leave them with their lands, consolidated, to be worked by them as their individual enterprise under the guidance of the service-co-operatives. Let the Service-co-operatives, which—indeed—if worked with vigour and in right earnestness, are capable of doing good work, spread their net-work all over the country as early as possible.

Regd. No B. 4183

These Service-Co-operatives must be provided with adequate resources and efficient personnel to man them.

The so-called Service-co-operatives—run on multi-purpose basis—may look after the entire range of peasants' needs. To aid consolidation of the lands of the members, and provide facilities for irrigation, improved varieties of seeds, storage, marketing and credit, etc., at cheap rates should be the chief objects of these co-operatives. They may also go in for tractors and other agricultural machinery driven by power to make them available to the individual farmers at nominal rates of hire. That may ensure all the advantages of large-scale farming, and yet maintaining the individual initiative and enterprise.

The law at present in Uttar Pradesh requires a minimum number of ten land-holders to form into a Co-operative Farming Society. The number being unwieldly, it is very rare that a co-operative of existing land-holdings comes to being. It is, therefore, proposed that the minimum number of members to form a Co-operative Farm be reduced to from three to five, with full liberty guaranteed to the Farming Co-operatives to have their own bye-laws to suit best, to their convenience. The Law should also be suitably amended, so as to allow even landless, contributing labour or capital, to become members of the Joint Co-operative Farms, if the farming society so desires. This will open way for the commercialization of agriculture, which alone can deliver the goods.

The almost extinct Joint-family-system—if revived by scrapping anti-joint-family-laws, can also prove of immense help in paving the way for joint-co-operative-farming on large-scale in distant future.

If the Joint-co-operative farms are really to take their pride of place in the national economy of the country, it is but essential to redeem them of the rigorous clutches of the official control. The task of the officials should be that of the watch-dog and not of a stray hound.

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